Sabse Pehle Life Insurance

New Labour Codes have redefined Employer obligations on Gratuity and Leave Encashment.

Our expertise will ensure the compliance becomes Simple, Reliable, and Future - ready.

Presenting

LIC's GROUP SCHEMES

New Group Gratuity Cash Accumulation Plan - UIN: 512N281V04

New Group Leave Encashment Plan - UIN: 512N282V04

New Group Superannuation Cash Accumulation Plan - UIN: 512N274V03

Group Post Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme - UIN: 512N352V01

Salient Features:

- Scientific funding
- Attractive Returns
- Benefit of insurance protection
- Income Tax Benefits as per Rules
- Multiple options for annuity payments

For more details, email to groupbusiness@licindia.com or contact your Agent/nearest LIC P&GS unit

LIC/PGS/P1/2025-26/31/Eng

LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827 | Visit: www.licindia.in | Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

WEDNESDAY
February 11, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 35

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

BIAS CHARGE

Opposition moves to remove Speaker Birla

NEWS » PAGE 11

TEXTILE TRADE

U.S.-Bangladesh deal upsets Indian exporters

BUSINESS » PAGE 13

CONFLICT IN MANIPUR

Internet cut in Ukhrul as violence continues

NEWS » PAGE 10

NEW REALITY

Approaching AI surge, its global consequences

The issue is whether humanity can keep up

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

CLINICAL DISPLAY

Farhan, Shadab shine in Pakistan's win

SPORT » PAGE 15

HC denies anticipatory bail to Basavaraj

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Byrathi Basavaraj

Observing that the interrogation of powerful accused, who is highly influential and armed with an order of anticipatory bail, may not be as effective, the High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday declined to grant anticipatory bail to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in the case of murder of Shivaprakash alias Bikla Shiva, a realtor-cum-rowdy-sheeter, who was killed on July 15, 2025.

"A perusal of the investigation material placed before the court *prima facie* does reveal that there are substantial records which may be required to be confronted to the accused as a part of the investigation. Such material consists of Call Detail Records (CDRs), reports of enquiry on the complaint of the deceased and photograph of the petitioner along with accused [Jagadish alias Jagga]," the court observed.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order while rejecting the petition filed by Mr. Basavaraj. With this order, the interim anticipatory granted by the High Court to him on December 26, 2025 has been cancelled.

Such evidence, no doubt, is a matter to be subjected to further scrutiny, however, the request of the investigating agency for custodial interrogation cannot be brushed aside as the decision about the manner of investigation must be left with the investigation authority and the court cannot sit in judgment over the same, the High Court said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

Centre mandates label for photorealistic AI content

Amended IT Rules call for disclosure of AI-generated synthetic media, and warn platforms of loss of safe harbour for non-compliance; changes notified by the govt. to take effect on February 20

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Union government has notified amendments to the Information Technology Act, 2021, requiring photorealistic AI-generated content to be prominently labelled. The changes, which will come into force on February 20, also significantly shorten timelines for takedown of illegal material.

Under the new rules, social media platforms will now have between two and three hours to remove certain categories of unlawful content, a sharp reduction from the earlier 24-36 hours. Content deemed illegal by a court or an "appropriate government" will have to be taken down within three hours, while sensitive content, featuring non-consensual nudity and deepfakes, must be removed within two hours.

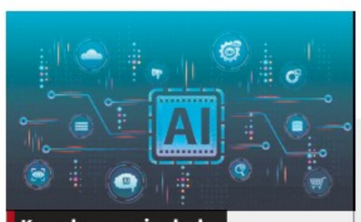
The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, defines synthetically generated content as "audio, visual or audio-visual information which is artificially or algorithmically created, generated, modified or altered using a computer resource, in a manner that such information appears to be real, authentic or true and depicts or portrays any individual or event in a manner that is, or is likely to be perceived as indistinguishable from a natural person or a real-world event." The final definition is narrower than the one released in a draft version of these rules in October 2025. As with the existing IT Rules, failure to comply with the rules could result in loss of safe harbour, the legal principle that sites allowing users to post content cannot automatically be held liable in the same way as a publisher of a book or a periodical can.

A senior government official on Tuesday said the rules include a carve-out for touch-ups that smartphone cameras often perform automatically.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Content check

Platforms that enable creation or sharing of synthetic content must ensure **clear and prominent labelling** under the new rules



Key changes include:

- **Synthetic content** to be treated as 'information' for determining unlawful acts under IT Rules
- Timeline for platforms to act on government or court orders reduced from 36 hours to **3 hours**
- Sensitive content, including non-consensual deepfake, must be removed within **2 hours**
- Platforms to seek **disclosures from users** for AI-generated content

SC agrees to hear plea against Assam CM's 'hate speeches'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Himanta Biswa Sarma

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to schedule for urgent hearing a petition filed by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)], accusing Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of indulging in a "sustained pattern of hate speeches" and seeking the registration of a first information report (FIR) into the alleged instances of hate speeches. The petitioner party said Mr. Sarma, while holding a constitutional office, gave speeches which "target, terrorise, and instigate hostility against the Muslim community residing in Assam".

"As elections take place, part of the elections take place in the Supreme Court," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant remarked.

The Communist Party of India (CPI) has also moved the top court through its national secretary, Annie Raja, against the repeated hate speeches and conduct of Mr. Sarma. The CPI submitted that a continuing pattern of statements and actions by the Chief Minister has vitiated the public atmosphere in Assam, deepened communal polarisation, and undermined the constitutional values of fraternity and secularism.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

NEARBY

DKS skips Budget meet, attends meeting in Delhi

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday skipped a pre-Budget meeting of two key departments and travelled to New Delhi, sharpening focus on internal party tensions. » PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Field of colours

Tulip valley: A woman poses for photographs at a tulip garden at the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology complex, in Palampur, Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday. PTI

Number of ex-Devadasis drops by nearly half

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A survey of former Devadasi women in Karnataka has shown a nearly 50 % decline in the numbers identified in the State over the previous survey conducted in 2007-2008. While 46,660 women had been identified as former Devadasis in the 2007-2008 survey, the number has come down to 23,395 in the 2025 survey.

While activists working for the rights of former Devadasis have expressed scepticism over the numbers thrown up by the latest survey, officials claim that the declining numbers are due to deaths or those who have moved up the social ladder refusing to take part in the survey.

Decline in numbers

Former Devadasis identified by 2025 survey in 15 districts 23,395	District with highest numbers Bagalkot 4,189	Second highest Vijayanagar 3,876	Third highest Belagavi 2,649
	Persons identified as first, second and third generation of their families: 90,092	Survey was conducted between September 15 and December 31, 2025	
First survey of former Devadasis: 1993-1994			
Identified numbers 22,873	The second survey 2007-2008	Identified numbers 46,660	

Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Act, 2025, replaces Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition and Dedication) Act, 1982

Key recommendations

Among the key recommendations of the report is that affixing father's name should not be mandatory in the application forms in educational institutions and other places for children of former Devadasis. It has also recommended announcing a special package for the former Devadasi families for their rehabilitation.

Women and Child Development Department sources said that the upcoming Budget could announce a special package for them.

Conducted over three and a half months between September 15 and December 31, 2025, the survey has also identified 90,092 persons belonging to the first, second and third generations of the former Devadasi families in Karnataka.

The focus of the survey was on collecting details such as social condition, education levels, information of dependents, employment details, ownership of agriculture land, skill training, health condition, basic infrastructure and access to pension.

The survey was conducted in Belagavi, Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Raichur, Koppal, Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Chitradurga, Davangere, Shivamogga, Ballari and Vijayanagar districts. The report has also recommended providing financial assistance for the marriage of children from former Devadasi families and encouraging inter-caste marriages.

The report has said that a special student scholarship should be announced for children belonging to former Devadasi families since a large number of them hail from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. It has also said that special training should be provided to prepare the children from former Devadasi families for competitive examinations.

Further, it has recommended providing special training in agriculture and animal husbandry, besides providing financial assistance for skill development.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 6

GETTY IMAGES

There's growing belief cricket too can thrive in Italy

Its players, who have come together from different parts of the globe for a common cause, feel the individual journeys have shaped the team's identity; skipper Wayne Madsen says his side is finding ways and methods to win games in the T20 World Cup

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

When Italy walked into this T20 World Cup, it did not arrive with the certainty of a system or the confidence of history. It arrived carrying something more fragile and more powerful - belief stitched together from astroturf pitches, time borrowed from work, long-distance flights, family histories, and quiet sacrifice.

For most of the squad, this World Cup is not the next step in a linear career. It is an interruption to ordinary life. They have come here from jobs. From club cricket played on astroturf surfaces. From countries that raised them in cricket cultures far removed from the one whose colours they now wear.

"The guys have trained well. We've had a couple of good wins against Ireland (in a T20I series) and Namibia (T20 WC practice match), and we're starting to build a lot of confidence in the group," said skipper Wayne Madsen ahead of the tournament. Confidence, for Italy, is not bravado. It is something accumulated slowly, almost cautiously. "We're finding our ways and methods to win games," Madsen added.

The word journey is not an affectation here. It is literal. Italy's preparation was deliberate, detailed, and unusually introspective for a team still building its identity.

"We've got our coaching staff who've been fantastic. The work they've put in has been meticulous - in terms of the teams we're going to be playing against, and our own skills and preparation. All of them (John Davison, Kevin O'Brien, and Dougie Brown) have got a lot of experience being underdog players in World Cups and performing. So, it's great to sort of lean on their knowledge," said the 42-year-old.

What stood out, though, was a decision that signalled self-awareness. "In preparation for coming here, we made use of a sports psychologist as well," said the captain. "The pressures of playing in big stadiums, in front of a lot of fans, is going to be new to a lot of our players."

Andy Hooton, a sports psychologist Madsen works with at Derbyshire, came on board after conversations that began in November. "Davo (head coach Davison) and I spoke about it. He (Hooton) has been with us probably for the last couple of months. In the last month, particularly, we've had a lot of chats around the mental side of this World Cup - what it's going to be for individuals and the team as well," said Madsen.

For Italian cricket, it was unfamiliar territory. "As far as I'm aware, it's something new for the team," Madsen admitted. But the need was obvious. "We felt it was really important, in particular for our guys who are not involved in professional set-ups, to be able to deal with pressure in these situations," he said.

That line - not involved in professional set-ups - defines Italy's World Cup more than any tactical plan. "Probably half of our squad," Madsen said, pausing to calculate, "Or maybe even just over half, have jobs outside cricket. We've got a handful of professionals. But we've also got guys who are juggling jobs and have sacrificed so much to be able to come here to this World Cup and perform on this stage."

Those individual journeys, he believes, have shaped the team's identity. "The journeys of the individuals in this group bring us together. What it means for us - that togetherness is really there. The bond we have as a group of Italians is really special," he said.

Time to adapt

It is not a bond forged by central contracts or shared academies. It is built by necessity. If emotional adaptation has been a challenge, technical adaptation has been just as stark. "There is club cricket in Italy, but none of it is on natural turf pitches. Everything is astroturf. All the pitches are astro," he said. For players raised entirely on artificial surfaces, adapting to natural turf is not a minor adjustment. "It's a big adjustment when we go to tournaments," Madsen said.

To bridge that gap, Italy's home-based players went to Sri Lanka for six weeks before travelling to Dubai. Astroturf, Madsen felt, offers a sharper, higher bounce and a different trajectory. Natural turf demands recalibration. "They trained outside as a group to make sure they were ready, and had adapted to the different bounce," he said.

The absence of infrastructure is something Italy's Australia-bred pacer Thomas Draca spoke about with urgency rather than frustration. "There are 10 clubs currently," Draca said. "But it (club cricket) is nowhere near Australia or England or India. I don't think we have a turf square."

For him, the World Cup is not just about competition. "If we can get funding and grow the game, that's what's most important. That's the legacy we want to leave," Draca said.

Anthony Joseph Mosca's journey to this World Cup began far from Italian club grounds. He and his brother Justin Mosca, Italy's opening pair, are from Australia, but their roots remain firmly Italian. "Our parents and grandparents were born in Italy. For many of us in this team, our families are from Italy. We have a lot of Italian heritage (in the team). So, Italian was the first language in some of our households," Anthony said.

He grew up playing grade cricket in Sydney, admiring and wanting to emulate Ricky Ponting's pull shot and Damien Martyn's cover drive. He didn't fully grasp the scale of Italian cricket until just before COVID. "The federation contacted Ben Manenti. And Benny passed on my name and my brother's," he recalled. Though the pandemic paused his travel, the commitment remained. "They told us the steps it would take to get to this level and we were prepared to take that on."

Two sets of brothers

That journey has been eased by familiarity. Alongside his sibling are the Manenti brothers, Ben and Harry - friends first, teammates later. "We played cricket together back in Australia. We played at the same grade club in Sydney. For the last 15 years, we've been close mates - brothers, not by blood."

For Anthony, the weight of Italy's history-making World Cup qualification settled in one simple truth: it made his mother happy. It brought pride to her voice, a smile to her face, and tears to her eyes. In that moment, history felt human. "At the qualifiers in the Netherlands, mum sent a video through. All the parents had to send videos to the players about how proud they were. And it brought a tear to my mum's eye. Once dad passed away, life was tough for her. I know she's very happy now. She's got a smile on her face to see the two boys playing here in the World Cup," Anthony said.

His teammate Draca is out to make his "uncle", the great Dennis Lillee, proud. Draca is running in this T20 World Cup with a chain once worn by Lillee. "He's actually given me his World Series chain. It's got his Test cap and his signature on it. He gave it to me for my 21st birthday. In this World Cup, I'll be wearing it, and I want to do him proud," said the 25-year-old.

Lillee is not a footnote in Draca's story; he is the axis. "Dennis is probably the reason why I've continued to play. And the reason why I want to bowl fast. I wouldn't be here without him," Draca said.

Draca's commitment is tied to clarity about his role. Italy has options in medium pace. "So, my role in the team is to bowl fast. Trying to bowl up around 140 kph, that's my role. That's my attribute." Pace, for Draca, is not flourish; it is function. That function has been sharpened by intent. In the months leading into this World Cup, Draca put his bowling through a deliberate rebuild, chasing pace not as an impulse, but as preparation. "I worked with Shahbaz Choudhry, a fast-bowling coach in the UK. Over the last four months, with Dennis' involvement as well, Shahbaz has rebuilt my action. I started off in the low-80s (mph), and recently I've been bowling around 88 or 89 (mph). All the hard work we've done over the last four or five months was preparation for this tournament," Draca said.

For Draca, who was longlisted for the IPL 2025 mega auction, this World Cup offers a chance to align fortune with a dream he has carried for years - "to play for Mumbai Indians, to play with Hardik Pandya." Hardik, he said, is his "hero."

For Italy, this World Cup is not an arrival. It is an argument. "Cricket (in Italy) will grow with this exposure," Madsen said. "It's nowhere near football, but this helps." What Italy carries in this tournament is not illusion, but intent. And belief - belief that cricket can belong in Italy too.

THE GIST

- Madsen believes that the experience of the coaching staff is coming in handy
- Anthony Mosca grew up playing grade cricket in Sydney, wanting to emulate Ponting's pull shot and Martyn's cover drive
- Draca, who revealed that Hardik is his hero, dreams of playing for Mumbai Indians in the IPL

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Special Division
Ramanagara, Bengaluru South Dist.

No. EE/PWD/RMN Spl.Div./TND-22/2025-26 Date : 06.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in two stage system from the eligible **contractors for 01 work** from **Rs. 500.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Documents may be downloaded from **11.02.2026 to 27.02.2026**. Last date for submission of tender **27.02.2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Date of Pre-bid meeting **23.02.2026 at 11.30 Hours.** Date of opening of Technical bid **02.03.2026 (If possible) at 11.30 hours.** Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD Special Division, Ramanagara

DIPR/SAD/627/SA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.35/2025-26, Dated: 07.02.2026

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in one and two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan and Chikkamagaluru District works as per KW-1,2,3,4 maximum tender amount is Rs.232.09 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.20 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 16-02-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1052/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಹಾಸನ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಅರಣ್ಯ ಭವನ, ಡೈರಿ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ಬಿ.ಎಂ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹಾಸನ–573 201.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಬಿ3/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ವಿವ–01/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 06.02.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹಾಸನ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿವಿಧ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂಗಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅಂದಾಜು ರೂ. 127.192 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೊತ್ತದ 08 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನಾಂಕಃ 16.02.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 (ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ) ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆವಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿವಸಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಹಾಸನ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹಾಸನ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1046/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department,
Office of the Commissoner, No. 8,
Cunnigham Road, Benglauru-560052.
Ph. No.: 080-22263862 | e-mail: caofcs@gmail.com

No.: FCSCA-CAO0PDA/5/2023 Date: 10.02.2026

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Bids are invited through e-auction (KPP Portal only) from eligible National Banks / Regional Rural Banks for placement of non-callable Fixed Deposits of **Rs. 7,30,20,000/-** and from eligible Private Sector Banks for placement of non-callable Fixed Deposits of **Rs. 4,86,80,000/-** under the Consumer Welfare Corpus, for a period of one year. Tender documents may be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **10.02.2026.** Last date for submission of bids: **16.02.2026 up to 05:00 PM.** Date & time of e-auction: **19.02.2026 at 11:30 AM.** For further details: Office of the Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, No. 8, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052. Ph: 080-22263862 | E-mail: caofcs@gmail.com

Sd/-Commissioner,
Food, Civil Supplies and
DIPR/CP/JA/5565/2025-26 **Consumer Affairs Department, Bengaluru.**

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
Tel: 080-22341230/35, **E-mail :** bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-02/67/2025-26/2585 Date : 09.02.2026

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Rajanna.K S/o Kenchappa has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from"Agriculture" Zone to "Commercial" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:66/1 extent 00 Acre-07.08Guntas of Chikkakuntenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the above said land for Commercial Purpose the General publics will get job opportunities.

2) During the development works of the layout there will be job opportunity for labourers.

3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial development in the above said land.

4) By developing the Commercial development Government will get income in the form of various Taxes.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5557/Zen/2025-26 **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.**

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga
Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga – 577201, Shivamogga District
Ph: 08182-295268 e-mail ID: ncdshivamogga2@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿ.ಸ.ಕ.ಶಿ/154/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2026

Tender Notification

e-Tender is invited in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000 by the District Health Association regarding the purchase of medicines required to Ayushman Health Sub Centres under Public Health Protection Programme in Grant of 15th Finance Commission for the year 2025-26.

1. Commencement date for uploading the Tender Form: As on KPP Portal **2.** Last date and time for uploading the Tender Form: 09.03.2026 **3.** Date of opening the Technical Bid: 11.03.2026, 11.00 AM **4.** Date of opening the Financial Bid: 13.03.2026, 11.00 AM **5.** Approx. Amount of Tender: Rs. 65.47 lakhs (As per required demand increasing or decreasing the Tender amount and accepting or rejecting the Tender will be the decision of The District Health Association) E.M.D. Amount: Rs. 1,31,000/-.

For further information contact the Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga (08182-295268) during office hours.

Sd/- District Health and Family , Welfare Officer, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/No.ksmca/25-26/59/02/1803

Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road,
Bengaluru - 560 009
Tel : 080 22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/08/2018-19/2597 Date: 10.02.2026

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Hanumantharayappa S/o Late Hanumegowda and Sri Om Prakash Bhaiya have applied to this Authority seeking to rectify the Catographical error of the proposed 18.29m Master plan roads which are passing through Northern part of the Sy.No.32/13 extent of 04A-38G of Kurubarakarenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk. But the said roads are passing on the Northern side of the Sy.no:32/13 of Kurubarakarenahalli Village as per Kurubarakarenahalli Village map and ground realities. Applicant also seeking the Change of land use of the proposed 18.29m roads that are in the "Traffic and Transportation" zone to "Industrial" zone under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961.

Accordingly 18.29m roads area 0Acre-21½ Gunts which is shown in the master plan has to be shifted to existing roads, due to Cartographical error and the proposed master plan 18.29m roads area seeking change of land use from proposed 18.29m roads (Traffic and Transportation) to Industrial purpose. Objections if any are invited from the public and any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore in writing with supporting documents and reasons within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary
DIPR/CP/5576/AKAR/2025-26 **B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru**

Bank of Maharashtra (A Government of India Enterprise)
BENGALURU ZONAL OFFICE
No. 465/A, First Floor, Opp to NMKRV College, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 011.

PREMISES REQUIRED ON RENT

Bank of Maharashtra requires suitable premises preferably on Ground Floor with appropriate frontage and sufficient Parking Space on Lease Basis for Opening / Shifting of Branches. The premises requires as below.

Centre Name	Dist. Name	Approx Carpet Area Required
Bannergatta Road	Bengaluru Urban	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Basavanagudi	Bengaluru Urban	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Rajajinagar	Bengaluru Urban	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Jalahalli	Bengaluru Urban	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Varthur	Bengaluru Urban	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Electronic City	Bengaluru Urban	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Hoskote	Bengaluru Rural	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Katihalli, Hassan	Hassan	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.
Kadakola, Mysore	Mysore	1150 to 1550 Sq. Ft.

The proposed premises should be in an approved building conforming to the conditions stipulated by the Govt. Authorities for commercial use. The owner will obtain NOC, if required from the concerned authority/ies for commercial use. Interested owners having clear title to the premises may submit their sealed offers in the prescribed format in two bids system i.e. 1) Technical Bid, 2) Commercial Bid in two separate sealed envelopes and the format of bid can be downloaded from our website **www.bankofmaharashtra.in** under Tender section or can be obtained in person from the above mentioned office address.

Interested owners having clear title over the property may submit their sealed offers in two - bid system by **17/02/2026 time 5:00 PM**. Offers with incomplete details / information and received after last date and time are liable for rejection.

Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reasons what so ever. Offers received from other than owners will not be considered. Offers from brokers will not be considered. For any further details contact us at **gad_ban@mahabank.co.in/staff_ban@mahabank.co.in, Ph. No: 9164111081 / 8838394957 Offers to be submitted to: The Zonal Manager, Bank of Maharashtra**, Bengaluru Zonal Office, No.465/A, 1st Floor, Opp. to NMKRV College for Women, 22nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar. Bengaluru-560011.

Date: 11/02/2026 **Sd/- Zonal Manager**
Place: Bengaluru **Bank of Maharashtra, Bengaluru Zone.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my Client intends to purchase one of the Flat constructed on **the Property** more fully and particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as **'the Schedule Property' from his Owner** M/s. Enarch Constructions, having its Office at No.22/B, 19th Main Road, 1st Block Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560 010. Further, M/s. Enarch Constructions represents that it is absolute owner of the Schedule Property and it had constructed the Apartment Building known as "ENARCH ROYAL" consists of Flats / Units / Apartments on the Schedule Property. Further, M/s.Enarch Constructions represents and confirmed that the Original Sale Deed dated 30.10.2004, registered as Document No.BAS-1-19312/2004-05 in Book I,CD No.BASD 107 in the office of the then Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk in respect of Schedule Property has been lost in Transit by its Seller / Vendor and accordingly, a Complaint has been lodged with the Bangalore City Police, Bangalore dated 11.03.2021 and thereby issued the Lost Article Report vide dated 11.03.2021 (subsequently public notice was taken).

The Owner M/s. Enarch Constructions represents that it is the Lawful, true and sole absolute owner of the Schedule Property and no one else has any manner of right, title, interest, share, ownership or claim in the Schedule Property together with Apartment Building constructed thereon and the Owner M/s. Enarch Constructions further represents that there is no pending litigation on the Schedule Property.

Anybody (including persons, Financial Institutions, Co-Op Banks / Societies, Housing Finances etc.,) having any kind of right, title, interest, share, ownership or claim over the Schedule Property together with building Apartment Building constructed thereon may file their objections **in writing** along with supporting documents, **to the undersigned** within **15** days from the date of publication of this Notice failing which my client will proceed to purchase one of the Flats in the Apartment Building constructed on Schedule Property as if there are no objections/claims. Objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my Client as if there are no claim / objection.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being a residential vacant site bearing No.28, BBMP Katha No. 148/145/82/2/2914/58 at the Layout as Royal Placid, Phase III carved out of lands in Sy.No.29/14 of Haralakunte Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Converted for residential purpose vide order No.B.Dis.ALN.SR [S]45/2003-04 dated: 28.5.2003 measuring East to West 60.75 feet and North to South 40 feet totally measuring about 2430 Sq. feet and bounded on the East by Site No.47, on the West by Road, on the North by Private property and on the South by Site No.57, together with Apartment Building known as "ENARCH ROYAL" which consist of Flats/ Units/ Apartments in different measurements / dimensions.

N.A.SATHYANARAYANA MURTHY ***ADVOCATE***
No.47, Ground Floor, Sri Rama Mansion, 8th Cross Road, R.K. Layout
1st Stage, Padmanabhanagar, Bangalore – 560 070. Contact Number : 9886625996

City corporations explore off-street parking

Officers say off-road parking, multi-level parking, and other facilities are no longer optional, but necessary, as available space will shrink significantly once on-street parking is strictly enforced

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's civic corporations are now planning to explore off-street parking as paid on-street parking and strict no-parking enforcement are set to increase demand for space in public places.

The civic bodies plan to use space beneath flyovers as part of a pilot project.

If everything goes as planned, the corporations are likely to onboard private landowners to set up paid parking facilities on private properties under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has proposed multi-level car parking (MLCP) facilities, a plan that is gaining momentum.

A representational picture of a mechanised multi-level car parking unit. Although existing MLP facilities are currently underutilised, officials believe they will fill up once towing resumes.

Off the street

According to civic body officials, these measures aim to curb illegal off-street and parking in residential areas following the implementation of paid on-street parking.

BTP data shows that Bengaluru has 1,194 no-parking stretches, leaving motorists with very limited parking options.

"Once paid parking is implemented and no-parking rules are strictly enforced, commuters will resort to illegal parking on bylanes due to the lack of space. While such parking can be curbed through towing, it is essential to ensure adequate parking space for vehicles, which makes off-street parking necessary," said a senior official from the North Corporation.

A senior traffic police officer also pointed out that with the city adding 2,000 to 2,500 vehicles every month, there is very little space on the streets to accommodate parking slots. "This will push vehicles onto footpaths, affecting pedestrian infrastructure and putting pedestrian safety at risk," he said.

In addition, illegal parking on bylanes creates smaller bottlenecks, leading to micro-level congestion.

"During peak hours, when connecting roads are choked, we cannot deploy officers to bylanes, as it would affect the main stretches. At the same time, if these smaller bottlenecks are not cleared, they will also impact traffic flow on the main roads," the officer explained.

Multi-level parking

Police officers said that off-road parking, multi-level parking (MLP), and other parking facilities are no longer optional, but necessary, as available space will shrink significantly once on-street parking is strictly enforced. Although existing MLP facilities are currently underutilised, officials believe they will fill up once towing resumes.

"MLPs are underused because illegal parking is rampant, which will be curbed through towing. Once that happens, all MLPs will see increased usage," the officer said.

The parking policy drafted by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) states: "As road space is limited, it is critical to shift on-street parking activities to off-street facilities, particularly in high-use areas such as commercial zones, transit hubs, and locations with demand for park-and-ride."

The policy recommends that off-street parking should be priced lower than on-street parking.

Beneath flyovers

North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar confirmed that the corporation is looking for vacant or unused government land to develop parking facilities.

"There is scope to convert space beneath flyovers into parking facilities, which is currently being explored. However, there are issues related to entry and exit under flyovers, and these will be examined first," he said.

Officials from other corporations also said that off-road paid parking facilities are in the pipeline, though the current focus remains on tendering on-street parking.

Police want to tow your vehicle, but where will they be parked?

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Land scarcity within Bengaluru has emerged as a fresh challenge for the civic body and the traffic police, who are in the process of drafting an action plan to resume towing of vehicles parked in unauthorised spots.

Even as three out of four traffic divisions have received towing vehicles from the corporations, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) remain unclear about where the towed vehicles will be parked. The issue came up after the BTP was told to clear vehicles dumped at Jakkarayanakere in central Bengaluru.

A senior officer from the Northeast division told *The Hindu* that they now have no option but to park all seized vehicles within police station premises, creating a new challenge in managing space around the stations. Another officer, however, pointed out that the primary reason for vehicles piling up at police stations is the reluctance to auction seized vehicles. "As per the Karnataka Motor Vehicles Act, all seized vehicles that are not claimed by their owners should be auctioned. However, this has rarely been carried out," the officer said.

Even as three out of four traffic divisions have received towing vehicles from the corporations, the city traffic police remain unclear about where the towed vehicles will be parked. FILE PHOTO

Search for land

While the BTP has the option of using small parcels of land within the city belonging to the police department, these will still fall short of the requirement. As a result, the BTP has written to Jagadeesha G., Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district, seeking the identification of three parcels of land within the city, each spanning at least three acres, to shift vehicles seized by the police.

However, the problem extends beyond the shortage of land for parking towed vehicles. Most police stations in the city are already flooded with seized vehicles, and their holding capacity is fast diminishing. If the situation continues, the spillover of seized vehicles will reach footpaths and roads around the stations, bringing the situation back to square one, potentially leading to violations of court directions.

HC push

In 2021, the High Court of Karnataka had orally observed that the city police must ensure that no vehicle is parked on footpaths around police stations before taking action against motorists for parking on footpaths.

Following this observation, the Bengaluru city police decided to move all seized vehicles to a single location until their release or auction. Since then, all seized vehicles that needed to be held for prolonged periods were shifted to Jakkarayanakere.

Another police facility on the northern outskirts of Bengaluru, near Madanayakanahalli, was also used, but this facility too is expected to reach its capacity soon. A well-placed police source told *The Hindu* that residents had raised objections to the Jakkarayanakere facility.

"Residents alleged that the snake menace had increased in the locality due to the accumulation of junk vehicles, and the lack of maintenance at the facility, which led to overgrowth of bushes. The facility witnessed a fire in 2025 in which more than 100 vehicles were gutted," the officer said.

In light of repeated complaints, a high-level multi-department meeting was convened, during which the police were told to shift all the vehicles.

East corporation to expedite Varthur Lake takeover from BDA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation Commissioner D.S. Ramesh has directed officials to coordinate with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and expedite the process of handing over Varthur Lake to the corporation.

Mr. Ramesh inspected Bellandur Lake, which is currently maintained by the BDA and undergoing desilting work.

He instructed officials to ensure that all the silt is removed on a priority basis before the onset of the monsoon. He also obtained information on encroachments, directing officials to initiate necessary steps for their removal.

At Varthur Lake, BDA engineers informed the Commissioner that the rejuvenation works had already been completed. The inspection covered the lake bund, inlets, boundary fencing and sluice gates, with directions issued to ensure their effective maintenance. Mr. Ramesh observed that the lake surface was fully covered with weeds and instructed them to take steps for their removal. BWSSB officials provided information regarding the inflow of treated water from sewage treatment plants into the lake.

City Corporation officials were directed to coordinate with the BDA and submit a report within one week on the process of handing over Varthur Lake to the City Corporation.

Chandan's body to reach Bengaluru on Saturday, says Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday visited the residence of Chandan Kumar, 37, who died after being shot by unidentified men in the parking lot of a busy shopping centre in Toronto, Canada, on February 7, and expressed his condolences to the family in Tyamgondlu village, Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

He reassured the parents that necessary steps would be taken to bring Chandan's body to the village.

Chandan's father Nandakumar, requested that his deceased son be cremated at his home town. "I had insisted my son not go to Canada. I had asked him to get married. When he got the opportunity to go abroad, he convinced me to let him go," Mr. Nandakumar said with tears.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara visiting the family of Chandan Kumar in Nelamangala, Bengaluru, on Tuesday.

Mr. Chandan Kumar, the only son of retired teacher Nandakumar and Shailaja, had been living in Toronto, Canada, for the past seven years and was working at LTIMindtree.

Later, addressing the media, Dr. Parameshwara said, "We are in constant touch with the Indian Embassy to bring Chandan's body to Bengaluru. The investigation into the case is under way, and the Canadian police will hand over the body to Chandan's friends on Wednesday. The body will reach Bengaluru on February 14. After that, the necessary legal procedures will be completed at the airport, and the body will be handed over to the parents".

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who spoke to Chandan's parents over the phone, expressed regret that a great injustice had been done. He assured that he would be in constant contact with the Embassy and try to bring the body as soon as possible.

Heritage buildings to get a facelift

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City Central Corporation Additional Commissioner Daljit Kumar has instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the beautification of heritage buildings within the limits of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation.

Mr. Kumar instructed officials to identify the total number of heritage buildings within the jurisdiction, prepare a list of those requiring beautification, and develop a structured action plan accordingly.

He ordered beautification measures in spaces beneath flyovers. Officials were asked to conduct site inspections, identify suitable locations for development, and submit a detailed action plan report.

MLA objects to GBA's no-trade license rule

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

S. Suresh Kumar

S. Suresh Kumar, former Minister and BJP MLA, has written to Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, taking objection to a recent circular that said no trade licences will be issued or renewed for establishments on roads less than 40 ft. wide.

In his letter, Mr. Kumar said this rule will affect lakhs of street vendors and owners of small shops in residential bylanes. "As per my information, there are nearly 2.5 lakh street vendors and 1.6 to 1.8 lakh kirana stores. This new rule will affect nearly 20 lakh people in the city," he said.

"In several areas, especially outer zones, there are no roads 40 ft. wide or wider. Some areas in the core city also do not have roads 40 ft. wide. Should traders operating out of these areas move to roads that are 40 ft. wide or wider? If so, what will residents of these areas do for their daily needs like groceries? GBA should think in a pro-people manner," he said in the letter.

Responding to these concerns, GBA sources said that they were only implementing the zonal regulations as per Revised Master Plan - 2015, currently in force, in the city and it was no new rule.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client Sri.Aditya Ranjan to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Agreement of Sale dated 19.03.2020 between M/s. Cornestone Bay East Developers Private Limited in favour of Ms.Alen Jeffie Penelope J in respect of Flat No.C-0915, Situated at Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk has been lost at the time of travelling.
All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Agreement of Sale. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the under signed in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.2055824/2026, dated 10.02.2026.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my Clients (1). Mrs. ASEEMA SULTANA, D/o. Mr. Syed Ibrahim, AADHAAR : 9970 6884 9737. And (2). Mr. MUDASSIR AHMED. F., S/o Late. Abdul Azeem. F., AADHAAR : 6542 2050 1929. Both are Resident of No.1017, Behind Shankara Matta, Fort, Kolar, Karnataka-563 101, propose to PURCHASE below mentioned Schedule property Which is Presently belongs to (1) Mr.CHAND PASHA, S/o. Late. Shaik Rahmathullah, AADHAAR : 5707 7868 6433. (2). Mr.ZABI PASHA, S/o. Late. Shaik Rahmathullah, AADHAAR : 9032 8205 6808. (3) Mr.Shaik Imtiyaz @ Imthiyaz Pasha S/o. Late. Shaik Rahmathullah, all of them are Co-Owners and having jointly acquired the same by Virtue of Absolute sale deed, Vide Document No.BNS-1-04793-2010-11, of Book-1, Stored in CD No.BNSD70, Dated:-29-10-2010, Registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar Banasawadi, Bangalore, the same had been executed by 1. Mr. IMTIAZ AHMED ANSARIE, 2. Mr. MUMTAZ AHMED ANSARIE, and 3. Mr. MUSHTAQ AHMED ANSARIE, Represented by their by GPA Holder i.e., Pyari jaan, After Purchasing of Schedule Property the said Shaik Imtiyaz @ Imthiyaz Pasha, had demised leaving behind his wife i.e., Mrs. RASHEDA BEGUM, Holding AADHAAR : 5299 6609 9720, and minor Children, Since Children are Minors the said Mrs. RASHEDA BEGUM, is Representing to her Minor Children, if any Persons or Members of Late Shaik Rahmathullah and Late Pyari jaan have any kind of objecting over Schedule Property for purchase may lodge their objections with the undersigned along with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which my client shall presume that there is no objection and proceed Sale deed transaction.

SCHEDULE:
Immovable Residential Property i.e., ACC Roofed Ground Floor House along with Zinc Sheet Shed in the Ground Floor Constructed on the Site No.11 & 12, Formed out of Assessment No.62/1, Katha No.1050, Situated at THANISANDRA VILLAGE, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, New BBMP Ward No.06, Bangalore, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath the soil or above surface the structure standing thereon and Bounded as :- Bounded as :-
EAST BY : Site Nos.1 & 2, WEST BY : Road, NORTH BY : Site No.13, SOUTH BY : Road.
MEASURING : EAST TO WEST : 30'-0" (Thirty Feet) And NORTH TO SOUTH : 45'-0" (Forty Five Feet). Total Measuring area : 1350 Square Feet.

ROSHAN ZAMEER. BA,LL.B.
ADVOCATE
NOOR CHAND ASSOCIATES,
Office No. 02 & 03, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Main Road,Beside Savi Sagar Hotel, Govindapura, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-45. Cell. 9886831826

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that, my client Mr.Manjunath S K S/o Mr.Karunakara N R has lost Original Sale Deed dated 25.02.1944, under Serial No.219/1944-45 of Book No. I, volume-620, pages 132-134 registered at Sub-Registrar of Bangalore, Original Sale Deed, dated 26.02.1944 under Serial No.222/1944-45 of Book No. I, volume-618, pages 195-196 registered at Sub-Registrar of Bangalore Original Sale Deed dated 11.09.1948, under Serial No.1703/48-49 of Book No. I, volume-696, pages 88-89 registered at Sub-Registrar of Bangalore pertaining to property Situated at Doddagunte Village and Original Title deeds, Revenue records and survey records pertaining to Old House number 111, Property bearing Survey number 205 and Property bearing Survey number 173, during shifting of the house. In this regard a police complaint of lost report No.1548209/2026 was lodged before the Bangalore City Police on 7-02-2026. If any person/s finds the said documents kindly inform the above said stated person or address mentioned below. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on my client and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has negotiated to purchase the Immovable Property from Mr. **C.SRIKANTH,** S/o. Mr. Chivukula Ram , Residential HOUSE Built on Site **BBMP No.319, situated at 7th Main, S.T. Bed, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034**, together with Ground and First Floor.
(earlier Site No.319, situated at 7th Main, S.T. Bed, BDA Layout, 4th Block, **(Srivagulu)** Koramangala, Bangalore-560 034), measuring East to West : 9.15 meters, North to South : 12.19 meters .Total site area 111.53 Square Meters .
If any authority /person/s are having any objections or claims in respect of the above sale the same be lodged with documentary proof within **7 days** from today failing which our client will get the Sale Deed registered and it shall be deemed there are no claims of any nature whatsoever.

K.M.A.PERES, VIREN MICHAEL PERES, Advocates, No.46/1-1, Wheeler Road, Bangalore- 560005, Mobile: 9845000414.
E-mail. peresoffice@gmail.com

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking
Regional Office: 2254, "Kousalya", 3rd Floor, South Wing, Vinoba Road, Mysore - 570 005

POSSESSION NOTICE
(See Rule 8(1)Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Mysuru** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Sec 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) to repay the amount together with the future interest. till payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on below mentioned date.
The Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India, for an amount mentioned in the below column + interest and costs thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

Union Bank Of India, Harohalli Branch, Kempaiah Building, Opposite KSRTC Bus Stand, Harohalli Ramanagara District- 562112 Contact no 9321414581 Mail Id:ubin0814580@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/ Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgager	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Total Dues	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Possession Taken
1	1) **Mr. Hanumanthaiah** S/o Late Kenchappa # Property No-92, Dyavasandra Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562112, 2) **Mrs. Sunandamma** W/o Mr. Hanumanthaiah, # Property No-92, Dyavasandra Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562112 3) **Mr. Urugaiah H M** S/o Masanaiah, 56/1, Main Road, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562112,	22-08-2025 & Rs. 1,91,004-00	Rs. 1,97,611.00 (Plus Interest & Other Charges thereon)	All The Part And The Parcel Of Land & Building In The Name Of **Mr. Hanumanthaiah.** Bearing Property No 170/92, Situated At Dyavasandra Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562112, **Measuring East To West 35 Feet, North To South 33 Feet Total 1155 Square Feet, Bounded By: East -** Property Of Smt. Jayamma, **West -** Property Of Muniredy, **North -** Property Of Hanumanthaiah, **South -** Government Road	05-02-2026

Date : 05-02-2026
Place : Mysuru
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Union Bank of India

Global warming and pollution are stripping vibrant colours from nature

Climate change is turning seas greener, forests browner and coral reefs whiter; as habitats grow warmer and more polluted, insects and birds are altering their pigmentation, reshaping how they adapt to their surroundings, tolerate heat and even how successfully they mate

Nivedita S.
CHENNAI

The colours of the natural world are not what they once were. More than half of the oceans have become greener over the last 20 years, and forests are turning brown prematurely. Various species of flora and fauna have also been changing their colours to adapt to rising temperatures, loss of habitats, and pollution.

This ecological discoloration is a direct consequence of climate change.

Living creatures are coloured a certain way for their survival and reproductive needs. Colours help escape predators, attract mates, and manage heat, among other functions.

A study published in *Biodiversity and Conservation* found that rising deforestation in the Amazon is causing butterflies to lose their bright displays. Butterflies in areas with human disturbance also sported a less diverse palette on the wings than those in the deeper, untouched parts of the forest. The researchers also found that areas with large-scale deforestation lacked the most colourful butterflies: less bright butterflies were able to camouflage better to escape predators and adapt to the loss of natural vegetation.

Grim shades: Coral bleaching seen in formations along the Great Barrier Reef off Australia. AFP

Becoming lighter

These changes echo one during the Industrial Revolution, when engine smoke and soot darkened the barks of trees and rendered the natural camouflage of lighter peppered moths ineffective. Over time, the darker peppered moths – which used to be rare – became more common in urban areas.

"In theory, the main adaptive pattern of colour change in relation to global warming would be a reduction in the deposition of melanin pigments," Kaspar Delhey, an ornithologist at the Monash University, told *The Hindu*.

Eumelanin produces dark brown/black shades and pheomelanin produces yellow and red hues. They are the two main types of melanin pigments in animals. When their bodies produce less melanin, they become lighter.

In a 2024 study in *Ecology and Evolution*, scientists also reported that several insects, including ladybirds and dragonflies, in the temperate northern hemisphere are turning lighter due to frequent heatwaves.

"Colour changes can have clear thermoregulatory benefits: lighter colour under warmer conditions can prevent overheating and allow insects to remain active for longer periods, while darker insects heat up faster in colder regions," Md Tangigul Haque, researcher at Macquarie University and one of the authors of the study, said.

The finding is in line with Bogert's rule: that animals in colder regions will be darker and those in warmer regions will be lighter. It is mainly applicable to cold-blooded animals. On the other hand, Gloger's rule applies to warm-blooded creatures, saying animals are darker in areas with high humidity and rainfall and lighter in colder, drier regions.

In a 2024 study in *Molecular Ecology*, scientists found that, thanks to milder winters, the brown morph of the tawny owl was found to be more dominant than the grey one in Europe. This was because the darker colour protected better against UV radiation.

Aside from climate change, rapid urbanisation and pollution are changing colours in the wild. In a 2024 study of 547 bird species in China, scientists found those in cities were darker and duller while rural areas abounded (relatively) in the more colourful birds. The authors speculated that heavy metals like lead could bind with melanin to produce darker plumage in urban areas.

Changes in pigments of plants also affect animals. Carotenoids afford plants red, yellow, and orange hues, and draw animals to consume them. Scientists have noticed that urban plants produce this pigment less. A 2020 study in *Current Biology* reported that flowers were altering their UV-related pigments to prevent being damaged by sunlight. These pigments are not visible to the human eye; they are intended for pollinators instead, and by changing them the plants could become less 'attractive'.

"Colour changes that improve survival might reduce mating success or involve other fitness costs," Dr. Haque said. This affects reproduction in particular, with animals shifting their courtship timing to cooler periods, he added.

The changes echo one during the Industrial Revolution, when engine smoke and soot darkened the barks of trees and rendered the natural camouflage of lighter peppered moths ineffective, leading to the darker peppered, moths, which used to be rare, becoming more common

'Underwater forest'

A striking example of ecological discolouration in India is underwater. In February 2025, scientists reported coral bleaching events in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and the Gulf of Kachchh. When corals suffer heat stress, they expel symbiotic algae and turn white. Such bleached corals face a higher risk of starvation and disease.

"A healthy coral reef is like an underwater forest," Thinesh T., assistant professor at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman and one of the authors of the study, said. "When corals bleach or die, reefs lose their complex structure that provides shelter and breeding areas for many marine organisms. Fish and invertebrate populations decline, while algae and other stress-tolerant organisms often take over. This reduces biodiversity and disrupts the balance of the marine ecosystem,"

A burgeoning population of algae is also rendering the oceans greener.

"Algal blooms can reduce water clarity and block sunlight, making it harder for corals and seagrasses to photosynthesise. When blooms die and decompose, they can also lower oxygen levels in the water, harming fish and other marine life," Dr. Thinesh said.

A positive effect

Given the cascading effects of colours, minimising their change has become an important thrust of climate action. However, experts have flagged a large knowledge gap thanks to a lack of studies in the southern hemisphere and tropical areas and that large geographic surveys are required to establish the current trends.

"By successfully implementing strategies from both field- and lab-based monitoring, we can guide interventions; for example, preserving microhabitats such as shaded areas may help dark-coloured insects avoid overheating," Dr. Haque said.

On the bright side, the study in the Amazon also found that forest areas that had regenerated naturally had a positive effect on the colours of butterfly species. In India, experts have said, regulating coastal development, improving water quality, and tracking stress indicators will minimise coral bleaching. Put another way, it is still not too late to restore the world its true colours.

(nivedita.s@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

- Aside from climate change, rapid urbanisation and pollution are changing colours in the wild
- A 2024 study in *Ecology and Evolution* reported that several insects, including ladybirds and dragonflies, in the temperate northern hemisphere are turning lighter due to frequent heatwaves
- A striking example of ecological discolouration in India is underwater, where coral bleaching events are posing an existential threat to a vibrant ecosystem
- On the bright side, a study in the Amazon found that forest areas that had regenerated naturally had a positive effect on the colours of butterfly species

BIG SHOT

Nature's spotlight: An aurora borealis, also known as the 'northern lights', illuminates the sky over houses in Kapisillit, Greenland on January 20. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Get the rocket ready

Q: What is a wet dress rehearsal?

A: A week ago, NASA found a hydrogen leak during a wet dress rehearsal of its Artemis II mission. A dress rehearsal in rocketry is a full run-through of activities that will happen on the day of launch, to validate people, hardware, software, and timelines as an integrated system.

A dry dress rehearsal practices the countdown and important operations without loading cryogenic propellants into the rocket. Instead, the team will power up vehicle and ground systems, verify its communications equipment, simulate critical events, and validate decision-making and handoffs between launch control, engineering, range safety, and, if applicable, crew operations. Many of the testing steps use simulated sensor inputs. These rehearsals are useful to reveal logical problems in the flow of events without risking fuel leaks.

A wet dress rehearsal is the same concept taken to the closest safe approximation of launch day, and with the vehicle being fuelled with its actual cryogenic propellants (typically liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen for large rockets). The team will cool the fuel feed lines, load the tanks, pressurise them, monitor leak detectors, and execute the countdown into its final stages. These rehearsals also keep the tanks full as the propellant warms and boils off, then execute a stop just before ignition, followed by draining and returning the vehicle to a stable configuration. Wet rehearsals are important because only they can reveal events that happen in cryogenic conditions, e.g. leaks in seals or in the connections between the rocket and ground equipment.

NASA's SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft seen at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on January 17. NASA/JOEL KOWSKY

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Plastic godown on Bannerghatta Road gutted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A major fire broke out at a plastic godown following a suspected short circuit in the Hommadevanahalli area on Bannerghatta Road on Monday night.

The fire spread rapidly through the plastic storage facility, triggering panic among residents in the surrounding areas.

Firefighters struggled for several hours to bring the blaze under control due to the highly inflammable nature of plastic materials stored inside the godown.

Sources said the situation was particularly alarming as a gas cylinder godown was located close to the plastic warehouse. Fire officials said a major disaster was narrowly averted as firefighters managed to prevent the flames from spreading.

Though the fire caused extensive property damage, no casualties were reported.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:24
RISE 01:37	SET 13:05
THURSDAY, FEB. 12	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:24
RISE 02:29	SET 13:55
FRIDAY, FEB. 13	
RISE 06:43	SET 18:25
RISE 03:22	SET 14:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	32	14
Bengaluru	30	17

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Cauvery V Stage achieves over 50% coverage, easing summer drinking water availability

BWSSB, like in 2025, will continue to run the Sanchari Cauvery scheme, where the Board will provide Cauvery water in tankers in areas yet to be covered by V Stage

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

With a good monsoon in 2025 and the coverage of Cauvery V Stage achieving over 50% progress, the drinking water situation in Bengaluru during the summer of 2026 is expected to be comfortable.

"Fortunately, there have been good rains in 2025. The reservoirs of the Cauvery basin have sufficient water to provide for the city during the summer months," said V. Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairperson, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

Cauvery V Stage, commissioned in October 2024, has achieved over 50% coverage with over 1.75 lakh connections using up 400 MLD of water, as against an allocated 775 MLD for a target of over 3 lakh connections. This has eased drinking water crisis in the outer zones and 110 villages, which were dependent on borewells and tankers, in the absence of piped water supply from river Cauvery, like the rest of the city.

"New connections under Stage V have picked up pace, and that has eased the drinking water crisis in parts of the city most hit by a shortage in a dry year like 2024," Mr. Manohar said.

Many of these areas are reporting a fall in demand for water tankers.

Some areas and apartment communities continue to rely on borewells and water tankers. The cost of a tanker of around 12,000 litres of water is pegged at ₹1,200 in the market now. FILE PHOTO

Ramesh Reddy, a water tanker businessman in Mahadevapura, said that business was dull and was unlikely to pick up. "We were a stop-gap arrangement before Cauvery water supply reached the area. Now, many apartment communities are slowly taking piped water supply. So, the demand is low," he said.

However, some areas and apartment communities continue to rely on borewells and water tankers. The cost of a tanker of around 12,000 litres of water is pegged at ₹1,200 in the market now.

BWSSB, like in 2025, will continue to run the Sanchari Cauvery scheme, where the Board will provide Cauvery water in tankers in areas yet to be covered by V Stage.

However, residents complain that the cost of Sanchari Cauvery water is no less than a private tanker, and given the demand was high in 2025, they rarely came on time. In 2025, a tanker of 12,000 litres of water cost ₹1,290 under the scheme. There is no clarity yet as to whether the price will be revised this year.

Meanwhile, Mr. Manohar chaired a meeting of senior BWSSB officials on Tuesday and directed them to continue with mini (sintex) tank scheme, also started in 2024, in high density areas (slum areas), likely to face shortage. These tanks will regularly be filled with the board's Sanchari Cauvery water tankers.

> New connections under Stage V have picked up pace, and that has eased the drinking water crisis in parts of the city most hit by a shortage in a dry year like 2024
>
> **V. RAM PRASATH MANOHAR,** Chairperson, BWSSB

BWSSB has commissioned the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) to study ground water levels in the city to plan for the summer. "The report is expected soon," Mr. Manohar said.

The Board has, over the last two years, filled up 40 lakes in the city with treated water, which will hopefully help in raising ground water levels, he added.

Meanwhile, the Board is continuing with some of the water saving measures that it embarked on during the crisis-rid summer of 2024. Till date, the board has ensured aerators are installed in over 15 lakh public taps, saving water worth ₹40 crore annually, sources said.

Two injured in fire accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 46-year-old woman is battling for her life, while a man sustained burns after a gas cylinder explosion at Manjunatha Layout in the K.R. Puram police station limits on Monday evening. The injured have been identified as Poornima , a homemaker and owner of the building, who suffered severe burns, and Venkatesh, 46, a labourer and tenant residing on the third floor of the building.

Speeding truck overturns on goods vehicle killing driver in Chickballapur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A goods vehicle driver was killed on the spot after a speeding heavy goods truck overturned onto his vehicle on National Highway 44 near Doddapailagurki-Shettigere Cross in Chickballapur district in the early hours of Tuesday.

The driver, identified as Chandrappa, 50, a resident of Attibele, was trapped under the truck and died instantly.

According to the police, the accident occurred when an allegedly speeding goods truck travelling from Bengaluru towards Hyderabad attempted to overtake another vehicle. In the process, the driver reportedly lost control, causing the truck to skid for a few metres before overturning onto a moving goods vehicle.

The impact was severe, and due to the massive weight of the truck, the goods vehicle was completely crushed. Debris from the mangled vehicle was strewn across the road.

Senior police officials, led by Chickballapur Superintendent of Police Kushal Chowksey, visited the spot and supervised the rescue and clearance operations. Three cranes were pressed into service to remove the overturned truck.

The truck driver sustained injuries and was shifted to a hospital. A case has been registered for rash and negligent driving and causing death by negligence.

Traffic on the busy highway was disrupted for some time.

NAGPUR METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Station Road, Kingsway, Sadar, Nagpur-440001.
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 36/2025-26
www.mahatenders.gov.in
Sealed Percentage rate/Item rate e-tenders are invited from Non-Registered /Registered Contractors with N.M.R.D.A./ N.I.T. /P.W.D. / N.M.C. or other Govt. Dept. as per eligibility criteria for **One** work. The details of works will be uploaded on tender website i.e. www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Work / E.M.D. in Rs.	Eligibility/Tender Cost in Rs.	Time Limit in Months	Division
1	**Request for Proposal for Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for World-class Redevelopment, Landscaping & Beautification of Deekshabhoomi, Nagpur.**	As per Tender Document 5,00,000/-	As per Tender Document 10,000/-	06	Project

Money :- E.M.D. is to be paid by online only. **Plans & Estimates :-** Available in the Technical Section, Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur. **Tender Forms :-** From **02.00 P.M.** on Date **11.02.2026** up to **2.00 P.M.** on Date **26.02.2026** on www.mahatenders.gov.in **Receipt / Submission :-** From **02.00 P.M.** on Date **11.02.2026** up to **2.00 P.M.** on Date **26.02.2026** on www.mahatenders.gov.in. **Pre-Bid Meeting:-** On 4.00 P.M. on Date **18.02.2026** in the Office of S. E. (Project), NMRDA, Station Road, NMRDA, Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur. **Opening :-** At N.M.R.D.A. Office on Date **27.02.2026** at 2.00 P.M. or as decided by N.M.R.D.A.
-sd- Superintending Engineer,
Advt. No. : S.E.(NMRDA)/84/2025-26 Dated : 09.02.2026 Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority

3 DAYS CLASSROOM TRAINING PROGRAM
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TOOLS & AUTOMATIONS PROGRAM
LEARN TO BUILD WITH AI
Websites & Web Apps | AI Receptionists | Assistants
Chatbots | Automation Systems | Videos & Reels
AI Tools for Productivity | Content Creation
WITHOUT ANY CODING KNOWLEDGE | IT SKILLS
MASTER 30+ AI TOOLS & GROW YOUR INCOME
CHATGPT | GEMINI | LEONARDO.AI | N8N | MIDJOURNEY | LOVABLE
GAMMA | HEYGEN | ELEVENLABS | HIGGSFIELD | NANO BANANA |
VEO 3| COPILOT | CLAUDE | AND MANY MORE

BUSINESS OWNERS
EMPLOYEES
FREELANCERS
STUDENTS
HOMEMAKERS
Whatever you do, do it better with AI. Whether you run abusiness, have a job, or want part-time income.
FOR DETAILS, ATTEND ANY ONE FREE 2-HOUR AI TRIAL DEMONSTRATION & WORKSHOP
TODAY OR TOMORROW 6:2 0 P M
HOTEL PARAAG, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU
Call to register: 7680990163 | 7680990168 | bootcampsindia.com

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION
No: CMRL/HR/CON/02/2026 dated 11-02-2026.
CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of under mentioned posts on contract basis :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Consolidated Pay (Per Month)	Min Exp. (Yrs)	Max Age (Yrs)
1	JGM (Signal)	1	Rs.1,45,000/-	15	43
2	DGM (Operations)	1	Rs.1,25,000/-	13	40
3	DGM (Telecom)	1			
4	DGM (Power System & Overhead Equipment)	1			
5	DGM (Electrical & Mechanical)	1			
6	Manager (Power System & Overhead Equipment)	1	Rs.85,000/-	7	38
7	Manager (Electrical & Mechanical)	1			
8	Manager (Signal)	1			

Note :
i. The detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: **https://chennaimetrorail.org.** under careers section on or before **13.02.2026.**
ii. Age, qualification & experience stipulated for the above posts should be as on **11.02.2026.**
iii. Salary is negotiable for deserving candidates.
iv. Last date for receipt of online applications is **02.03.2026.**

For Managing Director
Chief General Manager (HR & Legal)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited
DIPR/ 163 / DISPLAY/2026

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक सर्विसेज़ बोर्ड
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SERVICES BOARD
Advt. No. RBISB/BA/05/2025-26
Recruitment for Various Posts in Non-CSG Cadres in Reserve Bank of India – Panel Year 2026
Applications are invited for recruitment to the following various posts in Non-CSG Cadres in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the Panel Year 2026:

Sr. No.	Posts	Vacancies
1	Legal Officer in Grade 'B'	06
2	Manager (Technical-Civil) in Grade 'B'	02
3	Manager (Technical-Electrical) in Grade 'B'	01
4	Assistant Manager (Rajbhasha) in Grade 'A'	04
5	Assistant Manager (Protocol and Security) in Grade 'A'	08
	Total	**21**

2. For all other details such as eligibility criteria, reservation of vacancies, scheme of selection, submission of online application and other instructions, please refer to the detailed advertisement to be published on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) on **February 06, 2026** and in the Employment News/ Rozgar Samachar issue dated **February 14, 2026** /subsequent issue. Candidates can apply for the aforementioned posts only by online mode through the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in).

3. Important Dates:

Website Link Open - For Online Registration of Applications and Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	**February 06, 2026 to February 26, 2026 (till 06:00 PM)**
Online / Written Examination	**March 14, 2026**

NOTE: Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement, will be published only on the Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in).

To Advertise in The Hindu Opportunities column, Please contact, gurunathareddy.s@thehindu.co.in or Ph: 9845529981

GENERAL

ಗಾರ್ಡನ್ ಸಿಟಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
GARDEN CITY UNIVERSITY
EMPHASIS ON LIFE
Established under Karnataka State Act 47 of 2013 and Approved by UGC, Govt of India
Notification Ref No: GCU/RO/2026/004

Applications are invited for the following positions at **OMR & Hoskote Campus**

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION:
• Pro-VC • Registrar • Controller of Examinations • Deputy Registrar • Assistant Registrar

TEACHING POSITIONS:
• Deans • Directors • Department Heads • Professors • Associate Professors • Assistant Professors • Teaching Assistants

NON-TEACHING POSITIONS:
• Admission Officers • Student Welfare Officers • Placement Officers • Accounts Officers • Accountants • Accommodation Officers (Male & Female) • HR Managers • HR Assistants • Librarians • Administrative Officers • Lab Assistants • Front Office Managers • Transport Managers • Vigilance Officers • Security Guards • Electricians • Plumbers • Drivers

IMMEDIATE HIRING FOR
TEACHING
• Media Studies • Visual Communication • Fashion Design • Hotel Management • Computer Science and IT • UI/UX Design • Interior Design • Product Design • AI and Software Engineering
NON-TEACHING
• Multilingual Tele Callers • Student Admission Counselors • Civil Supervisors

UGC 7th Pay Scale (Basic) for eligible candidates with good communication and subject knowledge.

Academicians and Subject Matter Experts are required in the following fields:
• Artificial Intelligence • Aviation Management • Biochemistry • Bio-Informatics • Bio-Statistics • Biotechnology • Business Analytics • Chemistry • Cloud Computing • Commerce • Computational Biology • Computer Applications • Computer Engineering • Cyber Security • Data Science • English • English Computational Linguistics • Fashion and Apparel Design • Food Science and Technology • Forensic Science • Genetics • Hindi • Hotel Management • Journalism • Kannada • Machine Learning • Management • Mass Communication • Microbiology • Nanotechnology • Physical Education • Physiotherapy • Psychology • Robotics • Tourism • Visual Communication

Application Process:
Interested candidates are requested to send their latest resume addressed to the Chancellor along with a vision document outlining how they plan to improve the department they are applying to.

Please submit your application within 7 days using the following **QR code**.

Sd/-
Registrar

www.gardencity.university

Applicants may also send hard copy resumes by courier to:
GCU City Office: GCC House, #340, 5th Main, Indiranagar Double Road, Bangalore-560038
E-mail: **hr@gardencity.university** | Call: **90 1992 1992** **www.gardencity.university**

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's expected coal consumption over the next 25 years

2.62 In billion metric tonnes. India's coal consumption, with no major new decarbonisation measures, is expected to peak at 2.62 billion metric tonnes in 2050, more than double the current 1.26 billion. It is expected to peak in 2050 before collapsing by 2070. REUTERS

The amount owed by the U.S. to the United Nations

4 In $ billion. The U.S. owes nearly $4 billion to the United Nations. This includes $2.196 billion for its regular operating budget and $1.8 billion for far-flung peacekeeping operations. Unless its financial rules are overhauled or all 193 member nations pay their dues, the UN faces imminent financial collapse. PTI

Value of health grants to Democrat States which are to be cut

600 In $ million. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is expected to cut about $600 million in public health grants to Minnesota, California, Colorado and Illinois because they do not align with the priorities of the White House. REUTERS

The trips expected during China's Lunar New Year

9.5 In billion. The Chinese government estimates that 9.5 billion trips will be made ahead of the Lunar New Year festival. Hundreds of millions are expected to travel to their hometowns. Some 540 million of those trips will be made via train, and 95 million by air. The rest will be on road. PTI

Entrepreneurs provided with loans through PM-SURAJ

1.39 in lakh. The entrepreneurs were provided with ₹1,389.61 crore in loans through the PM-SURAJ portal in the 2024-25 fiscal against a target of extending benefits to one lakh entrepreneurs. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

A reckoning for India's aviation sector

India's aviation sector faces urgent challenges as operational failures and safety incidents threaten IndiGo and Air India. With profits declining and rising passenger dissatisfaction, the industry must address systemic vulnerabilities ahead of the entry of new regional players

FULL CONTEXT

Deepanshu Mohan
Anvita Tripathi

The past year was marked by sustained turbulence in India's civil aviation sector, with multiple failures, whose scale and frequency paint a grim picture for the duopoly (IndiGo and the Air India group), both now bracing for thumping losses, with profits plunging drastically, according to recent numbers. The year witnessed a series of breakdowns from the June 2025 Ahmedabad crash to mass cancellations and prolonged flight delays generating unrest, not only among stranded passengers, but across the aviation market at large.

The December IndiGo disruption emerged as the first failed stress test, the scale of which now threatens to weigh heavily on the country's largest carrier, with it being ranked in the bottom layer of most indexes. What appeared to be an airline-specific failure has now revealed itself as a system-wide constraint coming into view. And as the system attempts to correct itself after this exposure, the emergence of new regional players receiving No Objection Certificates (NOCs) demands regulatory caution: without targeted structural correction, these entrants risk merely redistributing fragility rather than absorbing shocks or easing the sector's mounting operational strain.

India's commercial aviation sector stands as the world's third-largest domestic market, operating over 840 aircraft and carrying more than 350 million passengers annually. Yet this scale has been achieved through an expansion that is increasingly overstretched. As airlines prepare for the upcoming peak travel season amid tighter duty-time enforcement and fleet expansion, the December disruption now reads less as an aberration and more as a warning – making it imperative to evaluate what needs correction.

Plummeting hopes

India's commercial aviation sector stands as the world's third-largest domestic market, carrying more than 350 million passengers annually. Yet this scale has been achieved through an expansion that is increasingly overstretched

Chart 1: Pilot to aircraft ratio (number of pilots per available aircraft)

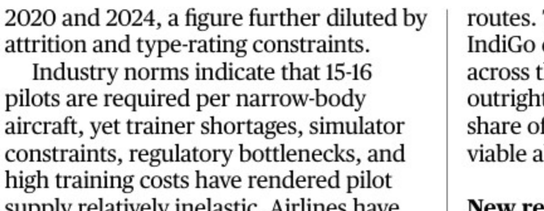


Chart 2: CPL issuance versus estimated pilot requirement

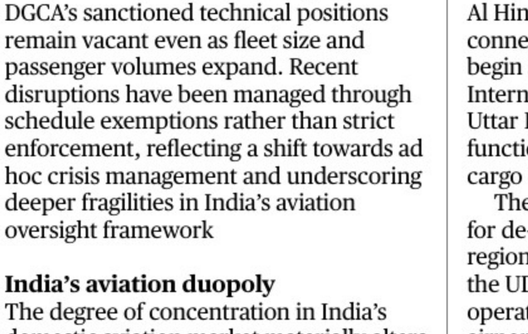
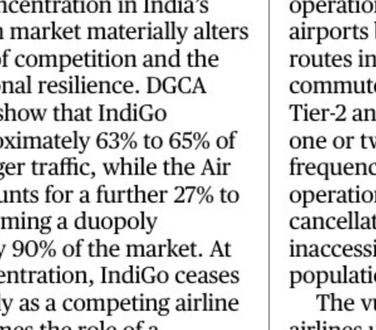


Chart 3: Domestic market share of Indian airlines (2024–25)



Source: Indian Oil; Press Information Bureau; Statista

Chart 4: IndiGo's monopoly and duopoly control over 950 routes in India

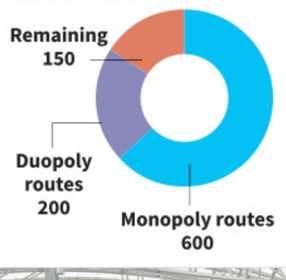
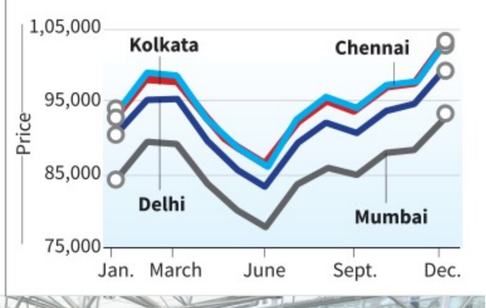


Chart 5: ATF prices across major cities



Complete chaos: Passengers distressed over flight cancellations at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, Hyderabad on December 5, 2025. NAGARA GOPAL

India's pilot bottleneck

The December disruption brought into sharp view the mechanics of vulnerability within India's aviation system. IndiGo entered Phase-2 of the implementation of the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms with 5,038 pilots operating a fleet of more than 360 aircraft, translating into a pilot-to-aircraft ratio of roughly 14, well below the global benchmark of 18-20 considered necessary for fatigue-mitigated operations. This mismatch exposed the limits of an operating model calibrated for sustained high utilisation.

The new FDTL framework, which reduced permissible night operations, extended mandatory rest periods, and tightened cumulative flight-hour ceilings, rendered IndiGo's published schedules legally untenable without adjustment. Even with the flight time capped at 60 hours over a seven-day period, substantially higher than the 40-hour weekly standard widely regarded as healthy across sectors, the rules proved incompatible with existing crew strength.

While India's aviation expansion has intensified demands for pilots, training capacity has failed to keep pace. Parliamentary disclosures estimate a requirement of 7,000 pilots between 2024 and 2026, rising to 25,000-30,000 over the next decade. In contrast, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued only over 5,700 Commercial Pilot Licences (CPL) between 2020 and 2024, a figure further diluted by attrition and type-rating constraints.

Industry norms indicate that 15-16 pilots are required per narrow-body aircraft, yet trainer shortages, simulator constraints, regulatory bottlenecks, and high training costs have rendered pilot supply relatively inelastic. Airlines have increasingly relied on foreign aircrew, with around 236 temporary approval licences issued in 2025. However, these remain a limited and expensive stopgap.

Regulatory capacity has further compounded the strain. Nearly half of the DGCA's sanctioned technical positions remain vacant even as fleet size and passenger volumes expand. Recent disruptions have been managed through schedule exemptions rather than strict enforcement, reflecting a shift towards ad hoc crisis management and underscoring deeper fragilities in India's aviation oversight framework

India's aviation duopoly

The degree of concentration in India's domestic aviation market materially alters both the nature of competition and the system's operational resilience. DGCA data for 2024-25 show that IndiGo commands approximately 63% to 65% of domestic passenger traffic, while the Air India group accounts for a further 27% to 28%, together forming a duopoly controlling nearly 90% of the market. At this level of concentration, IndiGo ceases to function merely as a competing airline and instead assumes the role of a systemically significant carrier, whose operational decisions have direct implications for national connectivity, fare stability, and service continuity.

Empirical evidence from cancellation episodes indicate that disruptions of dominant airlines lead to a contraction in aggregate capacity rather than a redistribution of passengers to competing carriers. Data show that IndiGo operates as the sole carrier on about 60.4% of all routes. Therefore, operational stress at IndiGo does not merely displace traffic across the network; it results in the outright loss of connectivity on a large share of domestic sectors, with few or no viable alternatives for passengers.

New regional players

In December 2025, the Ministry of Civil Aviation issued NOCs for the operational launch of three regional airlines – Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, and FlyExpress – all aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and serving previously unattended routes. Al Hind Air will operate regional connections from Kochi, Shankh Air will begin services from the upcoming Noida International Airport linking regions in Uttar Pradesh, and FlyExpress will function as a low-cost passenger and cargo carrier in Telangana.

These new entrants offer a ray of hope for de-concentration and improved regional connectivity, particularly under the UDAN scheme, which had operationalised 625 routes and 85 airports by 2025, including 102 new routes in the Northeast, targeting 1.5 crore commuters in the first phase itself. Yet, Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities still rely on only one or two airlines with limited frequency, and any disruption in IndiGo's operations could lead to route cancellations, rendering air transport inaccessible for a sizable portion of the population.

The vulnerability of past regional airlines underscores that challenges in India's aviation sector remain significant. The market has witnessed the failures of several carriers, including Paramount Airways (2010), Kingfisher Airlines (2012), Jet Airways (2019), TruJet (2022), and Go First (2023), while Vistara failed in 2024 and was subsequently acquired by Air India. These failures were driven by intense cost competition, weak demand in smaller markets, poor management, and infrastructural limitations at regional airports. A persistent structural challenge was the volatility of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, which are closely tied to the U.S. dollar, exposing airlines to global market fluctuations.

For emerging players to survive and meaningfully contribute to market de-concentration, active policy support beyond initial NOCs will be essential.

This includes the effective implementation of UDAN subsidies, preferential slot allocation at congested airports, coordinated development of Tier-2 and Tier-3 airport infrastructure, and potentially fuel hedging mechanisms or tax relief on ATF to offset price volatility.

The need for a systemic solution

The rising frequency of safety incidents indicate that India's aviation system is operating beyond its safe design limits. By late 2025, the DGCA had issued 19 safety violation notices citing breaches of FDTL norms, lapses in quality assurance, unauthorised cockpit access, and aircraft operated with expired emergency equipment.

Globally, airlines maintain 20-25% spare crew capacity to absorb shocks; Indian carriers operate at near-total utilisation, allowing minor disruptions to cascade across networks. In this context, crisis management cannot substitute for structural reform.

With India accounting for 4.2% of global air traffic, and domestic demand set to rise sharply by reaching 715 million by 2030, failure to address these constraints risks converting India's aviation growth into a recurring crisis borne ultimately by passengers.

Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, O.P. Jindal Global University and is a Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at LSE and University of Oxford. With contributions from Anvita, Saksham Raj, Srisoniya, and Suryakanth from Centre for New Economics Studies.

THE GIST

- The December IndiGo disruption emerged as the first failed stress test, the scale of which now threatens to weigh heavily on the country's largest carrier, with it being ranked in the bottom layer of most indexes.
- DGCA data for 2024-25 show that IndiGo commands approximately 63% to 65% of domestic passenger traffic, while the Air India group accounts for a further 27% to 28%, together forming a duopoly controlling nearly 90% of the market.
- In December 2025, the Ministry of Civil Aviation issued NOCs for the operational launch of three regional airlines — Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, and FlyExpress — all aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and serving previously unattended routes.

Veteran journalist Ramaiah passes away

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

P. Ramaiah

Veteran journalist and former Member of the Karnataka Legislative Council P. Ramaiah, 92, passed away in Bengaluru at a private hospital on Tuesday night.

He leaves behind wife Jaya and three children. His family sources said that he was hospitalised for the last two weeks. He will be cremated in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Born on September 12, 1933, he was a native of Bindenahalli, Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya district.

Ramaiah, who joined *The Hindu* in the early 1950s, had served the organisation for nearly half a century, and retired as the Chief of Bureau of Karnataka in 1998. He was later nominated by the then Janata Dal government as MLC and served in the Karnataka Legislative Council till 2004. He headed a committee that recommended measures to strengthen small newspapers in the State.

During his five decades as journalist, he covered a wide range of beats, from sports to politics. "He was an all-rounder. His language was simple and straight. He was a very good leader. Ramaiah had vast contacts among leaders across the political spectrum," said A. Jayaram, former Chief of Bureau of *The Hindu*.

He had served as member of Karnataka Patrika Academy, State Accreditation Committee, Telecom Advisory Committee, Board of Visitors, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, among others.

He was awarded the Rajyotsava Award, Bangalore City Corporation Kempegowda Day Award and Karnataka Media Academy Award. He had in 2022 released a memoir in Kannada, *Naanu Hindu Ramaiah*. Many political leaders condoled his passing away, including Chief Minister Siddaramiah, his deputy D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of Opposition R. Ashok, and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Space is for everyone, collaboration crucial for progress, says ISRO chief

First module of the Indian Space Station to be ready by 2028, says V. Narayanan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, at the U.S.-India Space Business Forum in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

V. Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India, emphasised that collaboration is crucial for progress while speaking at the inaugural session of the U.S.-India Space Business Forum here on Tuesday.

Stressing the importance of collaboration, Mr. Narayanan pointed out that November 21, 1963, marked a major milestone for India, when the first tiny rocket lifted off from Indian soil.

"It was the U.S. that gave that tiny rocket, Nike-Apache, to us. The sodium vapour payload came from France. The entire thing was integrated by our team in a small church building. That was the beginning of the space activity in the country," he recalled.

The collaboration continued in the years that followed.

Noting that the U.S. was one of the partners in the Chandrayaan 1 mission, which provided the first clear evidence of the presence of water on the moon, Mr. Narayanan said that both countries can be proud of the discovery.

He also hailed the Axiom mission, whose members included Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, and the NISAR mission, a joint project between NASA and ISRO, as other instances of fruitful collaborations.

"Space is for everyone, and the benefits from advances in the field should be enjoyed by every person on the globe," he said, adding, "India's space programme was started not to compete with anybody, but to build advanced space technology to benefit the common man of India. Today, we strongly believe it is not only for India, but for the global community". "Now, there is the India-U.S. civil space joint working group. A lot of things are happening in that area. ISRO personnel are being trained in NASA.... The human space flight programme is going to be a continuous programme. We are going to have a lot of collaborative efforts," he said.

Mr. Narayanan further said that India has come a long way since the space programme was launched.

"As many as 433 satellites of 34 countries have been lifted off from Indian soil, including the heaviest satellite lifted from Indian soil for the U.S. The Prime Minister has given clear directions that we are going to build our own space station by 2035. It is going to be a five-module construction. The first module will be lifted off by 2028, and we are working on it," he said.

DKS announces free e-Khata drive with 15-day timeline for conversion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has announced a special free e-Khata campaign across all five city corporations, with a fixed timeline of 15 days for converting B-Khatas to A-Khatas.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has received around 7,000 applications seeking conversion of 'B' Khata properties to 'A' Khata, with Mr. Shivakumar assuring that 'A' Khatas will be handed over to all eligible property owners within 15 days.

Officials have been directed to ensure doorstep delivery of e-Khatas to applicants, the Deputy Chief Minister said, emphasising that the process would be completely free and that citizens should be able to obtain e-Khatas without paying "even a single rupee" as bribe.

Mr. Shivakumar said the government has received around 1.20 lakh applications for B-Khata to A-Khata conversion so far.

Of these, 60,000 applications have been approved, while 40,000 were rejected due to deficiencies. Another 15,000 applications are currently at different stages of processing.

The Deputy Chief Minister added that many property owners have sale deeds but lack khatas, and the drive aims to address this long-pending issue.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Doddanekundhi Division, Zone-1, ITPL Main Road,
Opposite to Pheonix Mall, Bengaluru - 560048.

No: BECC/EE/DNK/TN/07/2025-26 **Date: 10-02-2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Doddanekundhi Division, Zone-1, BECC, Bengaluru invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "**Package-01:** Improvements Roads and Drains at SC / ST Areas as per Census 2011 Block No. 121, 106, 118, 109/1, 119, 178, 23, 24 and 22 in Ambedkarnagara, Maheshwarinagara, Kaverinagara, Garudacharpalya, Doddanekundhi A.K. Colony, Ashwathnagara, Chinnappanahally Surrounding Areas and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 100 - Garudcharpalya, 101 - Doddanekundhi in Mahadevpura Constituency Under SCP / TSP Grants 2025-26'' **(4 Works) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 776.90, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 17,500/-**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "**Package-02:** Improvements Roads and Drains at SC / ST Areas as per Census 2011 Block No. 206, 107/2, 109 Kundalahalli Village, Kundalahalli Colony, Thubarahalli, Thubarahalli Palya and Lakshminarayanapura Surrounding Areas and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 102, AECS Layout in Mahadevpura Constituency Under SCP / TSP Grants 2025-26" **(2 Works) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 423.98, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 9,500/-**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "Construction of CC Roads and CC Drains at Approach Roads and Surrounding Areas in Hoodi Ward No. 98 (Hoodi, Thigalarapalya, Basavannanagara, Seetharamanapalya and Pattandur Agrahara) in SC / ST Colony Block No. (as per 2011 Census) 27, 57, 18/1, 18/2, 36, 24, 25, 58 and Byrathi Ward No. 99 (Belathur Colony, Kumbena Agrahara Colony, Kodigehalli Colony, Ayyapanagara 1st Block Colony, Bilishivale and Byrathi Bande) in SC / ST Colony Block No. (2011 Census) 21, 26, 100, 154, 162 coming Under Mahadevapura Division" **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 795.02, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 24,900/-**
4	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains and Other Allied Works in Garudacharpalya, Dodddanekundhi and AECS Layout in Mahadevapura Constituency Under GOK Grants'' **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 364.85, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 10,800/-**
5	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "Comprehensive Development of Arterial and Sub Arterial and Drains and Other Allied Works in Doddanekundhi Main Road from ORR to HAL Old Airport Road (ISRO Road), AECS Layout 60 Feet Road from CMRIT College to Kundalahalli Junction and Chinnapanahalli Main Road via from Rainbow Hospital to Jeevika Hospital Road and Hoody Main Road from Y Junction to Hoody Circle in Mahadevapura Constituency Under GOK Grants'' **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1499.98, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 37,500/-**
6	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "Comprehensive Development of Arterial and Sub Arterial and Drains and Other Allied Works in Vishveshwaraiah Main Road, 2nd Main (Doddanekundhi Industrial Estate) from Graphite India Main Road to Vishveshwaraiah Main Road, 2nd Main (Rado Industrial Works) and in EPIP Main Road via Vydehi Hospital from Graphite India Road to ITPL Main Road Big Bazaar Junction and in Garudacharpalya Link Road from Graphite India Main Road to Garudacharpalya in Mahadevapura Constituency Under GOK Grants'' **Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 1209.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 30,300/-**
7	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of "**Package-01:** Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains and Other Allied Works in Ward No. 98 - Hoodi, 99 - Byrathi, 100 - Garudacharpalya, 101 - Doddanekundhi, 102 - AECS Layout, 97 - Kadugudi, 103 - Whitefield, 104 - Varthur, 105 - Munnekolala, 106 - Marathahalli and 107 - Bellanduru in Mahadevapura Constituency Under District incharge Minister Grants 2024-25" **(51 Works) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 799.41, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,000/-**

Calendar of Events: **1)** Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 16-02-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **18-02-2026 at 11.30 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Doddanekundhi Division, Zone-1, ITPL Main Road, Opposite to Pheonix Mall, Bengaluru - 560048. 3)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **26-02-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **27-02-2026 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Doddanekundi Division, Zone-1, BECC.

KDA urges State govt. to continue Nali-Kali scheme; submits report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada Development Authority officials submitting a report to Minister of School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kannada Development Authority (KDA) has appealed the State government to continue the 'Nali-Kali', a multi class teaching programme with necessary modifications, stating that it helps unleash the creativity hidden in children.

The KDA, which submitted a report to Minister School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa on Tuesday on the implementation of the programme, alleged that it failed due to poor implementation .

"Even after 30 years of implementation of the Nali-Kali programme, teachers have not been able to properly adopt this. As a result, teachers have expressed their opposition to the Nali-Kali and parents are also not fond of this. The Nali-Kali can be successful only if teachers take responsibility for identifying the learning style of the child. Teachers should provide them with appropriate tools and techniques to enhance the learning experience of children. Unfortunately, no such efforts have been made anywhere," reads the report.

Key findings

"The teachers have failed to creatively utilise one period of 80 minutes of the Nali-Kali project. When the trained teachers retired, the guest teachers appointed in their place did not get the expected results as they did not receive proper training. The age, learning level and learning ability of children from class one to three are not the same. In such a situation, the teachers have failed in terms of group formation and management to make multi-class teaching meaningful. This has severely hampered language learning," it stated.

"In classes with a large number of students, the teachers are not able to pay equal attention to all the children. The learning materials (stickers, picture lists, charts, etc.) required to conduct classes meaningfully have not been adequately supplied to many schools. Children who studied under the Nali-Kali up to Class 3 are finding it difficult to adapt to a different system in the class 4," it stated.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, KDA chairman Purushothama Bilimale said, "There were allegations that due to the Nali-Kali project and the Kannada medium, parents are hesitant to admit their children to government schools and have turned to private schools. In this context, it was decided to conduct a study on the programme. Information was obtained from parents, teachers, children, and other stakeholders across the State, and a report was submitted to the School Education Minister".

However, the State government has decided to phase out the Nali-Kali programme in primary education and convert the multi class teaching into single grade teaching.

South corporation begins issuing IDs to street vendors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The South City Corporation on Tuesday formally launched the process of issuing identity cards to street vendors.

South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh symbolically distributed identity cards to 15 vendors on Tuesday. The initiative covers 3,802 street vendors identified within the jurisdiction of the corporation.

Officials said that identity cards would be distributed to the remaining identified street vendors at their respective places of business in the coming days.

The identity cards are intended to regularise street vending and ensure protection of livelihoods while enabling better regulation.

The exercise is being implemented in accordance with the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and the Karnataka Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood, Regulation of Street Vending and Licensing) Scheme, 2020.

A comprehensive survey of urban street vendors was conducted in the BBMP South Zone between September 20, 2024, and January 6, 2025. Then BBMP marshals, Community Resource Persons (CRPs), and junior health inspectors participated in the on-ground verification to identify eligible street vendors and document their details.

'Mandatory'

The Commissioner said that only street vendors holding valid identity cards would be permitted to carry out vending activities. Vendors have been instructed to mandatorily display or wear their identity cards while conducting business. Street vending without an identity card will be considered illegal, he said.

Vidhana Soudha staff held for theft

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have arrested a Group D employee, identified as Antony, a watch-and-ward staff member, for allegedly stealing a bag containing gold ornaments and cash from the office of the Urban Development and Town Planning Minister Byrathi Suresh.

According to the police, the complainant, Naveen, had visited the Minister's office and inadvertently left behind his bag.

The police verified CCTV camera footage from the premises and identified the suspect. He reportedly confessed to the theft.

Farmer cuts sandalwood branches near Vidhana Soudha to protest NHAI action on his farm

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

The clearance of sandalwood trees grown on land at Haliyur in Tarikere taluk, acquired for the NH-206, began on Monday, amid protests by the grower.

A sandalwood farmer from Chikkamagaluru, T.N. Vishu Kumar, allegedly severed branches of a sandalwood tree near Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday in protest against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The NHAI began clearing sandalwood trees cultivated by Mr. Kumar at Haliyur in Tarikere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district on Monday. The authority has acquired four acres of land in the village for NH 206 (Shivamogga-Tumakuru).

On Monday, Special Land Acquisition Officer (SLAO) Siddalinga Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of Tarikere N. V. Natesh, and other staff members arrived at the site along with workers to clear the trees. Mr. Kumar protested against the tree cutting. The following day, Mr. Kumar arrived in Bengaluru and cut branches of a sandalwood tree near Vidhana Soudha to draw the government's attention. Soon after, the Vidhana Soudha police detained Mr. Kumar and seized the machete. Recently, Mr. Kumar had threatened to end his life in protest.

A senior police officer from the central division told *The Hindu* that he would be booked under the Karnataka Forest Act.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kumar said, "They have killed my trees, which I have guarded for 14 years. When they can sever my trees, why shouldn't I?"

Mr. Kumar said the NHAI notification requires the cutting of 2,148 trees on his farm. He alleged that the NHAI cut 42 trees on Monday and severed branches of more than 100 trees on Tuesday. "They have taken away my trees without informing me," he claimed. According to Mr. Kumar, the NHAI is offering a total compensation of ₹1.25 crore, while the value of the trees exceed ₹100 crore. "They are not compensating me fairly. I will not leave Bengaluru until I get justice," he told *The Hindu*.

NHAI stance

The preliminary notification for the acquisition of land was issued in 2016, and the final notification was issued in 2017. The compensation was awarded for the land, sandalwood trees and other trees at different stages. However, farmers, including Mr. Kumar, a resident of Haliyur, moved court seeking higher compensation.

Mr. Reddy, the SLAO, told the media that as per the court's direction, compensation for each tree had been fixed at ₹25,908. "For four acres of land acquired in the village, we have granted the total award of ₹3.25 crore. Of that, farmers have received ₹1.08 crore so far, while the others refused to take the amount by submitting their records. We have deposited the remaining amount with the district court in Chikkamagaluru," he said.

Mr. Natesh told *The Hindu* that the clearance of the trees began on Monday and it would continue for a few more days. "As per the court orders, the trees are being cleared," he stated.

CACHE

Changing priorities: The SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California, U.S., on June 5, 2025. REUTERS

What explains SpaceX and Blue Origin stepping up their moon plans?

The simplest explanation for the pivot is that it improves the rate at which SpaceX can learn the technologies it most needs to mature. Another possibility is that in the current environment, lunar missions are also accompanied by external demand and more legible milestones

Vasudevan Mukunth

Two of the world's most visible private space companies are shifting their attention and resources to moon missions even as both continue to speak about longer term ambitions to Mars and beyond. For many years, the public identity of SpaceX has been fused with settling humans on Mars. Its founder and CEO Elon Musk has repeatedly argued that a self-sustaining settlement on Mars would reduce the risk if a catastrophe on the earth ends human civilisation. He and SpaceX have also presented the Starship programme as the transport system that could render large-scale interplanetary travel feasible.

Blue Origin, founded by billionaire Jeff Bezos, has projected a different long-term vision: of building industrial capacity in space so that heavy industry can move off the earth. In recent years, it has focused on developing its New Glenn heavy-lift rocket and a lunar lander for NASA's Artemis programme. It has also been flying customers on short suborbital trips aboard its New Shepard rocket.

What have the companies decided?

While SpaceX has also been central to NASA's Artemis plans to the moon, now, however, the company is describing the moon as its immediate next priority in its sequence of major goals. The company has reportedly told investors that it is targeting an uncrewed lunar landing by March 2027 and that Mr. Musk has decided to focus on building a "self-growing city" on the moon. He also said on X that this can be achieved in under 10 years even while claiming that plans for a Mars city could still follow in roughly five to seven years.

While the moon and Mars are both interplanetary bodies, missions to the former are easier for many reasons. The moon is under a week away by rocketflight; the distance is low enough for communications to be near-real-time; and the orbits of the earth and the moon are such that there are roughly three opportunities to launch to the moon every month. Going to Mars is much less forgiving. The most fuel-efficient launch opportunities come around roughly once every 26 months; the travel time is in months; and failing to get to the red planet on one attempt will mean a multi-year delay before the next comparable chance. Mr. Musk has in fact leaned into these differences to justify SpaceX pivoting to the moon.

To be noted is the fact that SpaceX is approaching an IPO and Mr. Musk has already merged it with xAI, another company he founded to use AI to advance "scientific discovery and gain a deeper understanding of our universe". So Mr. Musk's claims are being subjected to more scrutiny than before, with investors and the general public also on the watch for inflated promises and hype.

Late last month, Blue Origin also announced that it would hold its suborbital space tourism programme for at least two years and reallocate its resources to accelerating its "human lunar capabilities", including development work tied to the company's contract to build a lunar lander for NASA.

Why have they decided this?

In the U.S., NASA's priorities have become a political fight. Some leaders want it to fly to the moon first while others talk up Mars. When the U.S. Senate pressed NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman on whether pushing to go to Mars first would weaken the agency's moon programme, including Artemis, he replied that NASA could pursue both and tried to assure lawmakers that he supports the current moon plan and that he isn't taking directions from Elon Musk (SpaceX is one of NASA's biggest contractors. Mr. Isaacman has also flown twice on privately funded SpaceX missions that he organised and paid for, Inspiration4 and Polaris, which makes him both a customer and a high-profile partner of SpaceX. Mr. Musk had also pushed for Mr. Isaacman's nomination, and senators explicitly asked Mr. Isaacman whether he had discussed how he would run NASA with Mr. Musk. While he answered that he had not, the fact that this was asked in a confirmation hearing says the suspicion of undue influence existed).

The simplest explanation for the pivot is that it improves the rate at which SpaceX can learn the technologies it most needs to mature. Another possibility is that in the current environment, lunar missions are also accompanied by external demand and more legible milestones. Mr. Musk's remarks come as the competition between the U.S. and China to return humans to the moon has intensified. As a result, being able to go to the moon has become a marker of geopolitical leadership and, importantly, a top priority for NASA.

Blue Origin, on the other hand, has two big problems it needs to solve to get to the moon: it needs to prove it can execute such complex, human-rated systems and it needs a near-term programme with real deadlines and external accountability. And its contract to build a lunar lander for NASA gives it both. Moon work is also more politically tractable than suborbital tourism, and if it succeeds, Blue Origin can buy credibility with NASA and with the broader space community.

Shouldn't they have seen NASA's plans coming?

Curiously, NASA's focus vis-à-vis humans in space has been about getting to the moon first.

Should SpaceX and Blue Origin not have seen this coming instead of making a hard turn towards the moon within a month of each other?

Perhaps the surprise isn't that they both had plans for the moon but that they both kept centring their timelines and product narratives on getting humans to Mars for such a long time.

There's no need for public narratives to be the same as internal ones. SpaceX's brand has been built on getting to Mars and Mr. Musk has repeatedly used Mars dates as a way to signal the company's ambitions, to attract talent, and to keep public attention on Starship. Internally, however, the company has been deeply embedded in moon-related work thanks to NASA contracts. And now, SpaceX and Mr. Musk are aligning internal and external narratives and clarifying – or perhaps admitting – that the next major milestone is in fact a lunar landing, and that Mars will only come later. In other words, SpaceX and Blue Origin may have known the moon would be the next stop, just that they didn't want it to be the headline as well.

In sum, delays in NASA's Artemis schedule, tougher political oversight, and more geopolitical pressures have pushed NASA leaders to speak more loudly and more often about a moon-first agenda. Lawmakers in Congress, especially the Senate committees that authorise and fund NASA, have pressed Mr. Isaacman and other senior officials to defend the Artemis programme and explain how NASA will beat or match its international rivals, but especially China, in returning to the moon.

As that pressure increased, NASA could have signalled to its contractors that lunar milestones would define their success for now.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"What's the matter with Sujatha? "

"She asked the clerk to disperse the money, but he just laughed."

"That was sensible of him."

"What do you mean sensible of him? Do you know that the daily wage people haven't been paid for quite some time."

"...that's all the more reason why the money shouldn't be scattered."

"Scattered? What do you mean? We don't want the money to be scattered."

"...but that's what Sujatha asked the clerk to do. The word 'disperse' means scatter."

"It does?"

"Here are a few examples with the word disperse. The strong wind dispersed the clouds."

"Usually when Sachin Tendulkar comes, the close-in fielders disperse."

"That's a good example. When Sachin gets out, the crowd begins to disperse."

"That's true. As soon as he gets out, I switch off the TV."

"Many of my friends do that too."

"But tell me, when you start paying people, what is it called? It sounds like 'disperse', but it...."

"...the word that you are thinking of is 'disburse'. The first syllable 'dis' rhymes with miss, kiss, and hiss. The second syllable 'burse' sounds like purse, and...."

"...nurse!"

"Exactly! Remember, in both disperse and disburse, the stress is on the second syllable. When you disburse money, you pay it out."

"I know that! At the beginning of every month, our Principal makes sure that teachers' salaries are disbursed."

"The Chairman has disbursed over fifty lakhs from the fund."

"At the end of the day there was nothing left to disburse."

"Good. Hey, why don't you go get your racquet? We can play some table tennis."

"I can't. Gopa has borrowed my racquet."

"Not again! Why do you allow that guy to fast-talk you into doing such things?"

"Fast-talk me into doing things? What do you mean?"

"When you fast-talk someone into doing something, you use deceitful talk to get someone to do something."

"In other words, you lie to them."

"I guess you could say that. The Minister tried to fast-talk the Manager into lending him more money."

"My father's boss tried to fast-talk him into becoming the Chairman of the Garden Committee."

"Good Lord! He doesn't know a weed from a plant."

"That's what my father told him."

"Good for him."

"In a movie that I saw recently, the villain fast-talks the heroine into helping him rob a bank."

"She gets caught, I suppose?"

"That's right."

"And like most heroines, she is unwilling to take her medicine, right?"

"Take her medicine? What are you talking about? The heroine wasn't sick. She was..."

"No, no! When you say that someone is ready to take his/her medicine, it means he/she is willing to accept punishment. He/she is willing to submit himself/herself to something unpleasant."

Published in The Hindu on July 20, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With India co-hosting the ICC T20 Men's world cup, here is a quiz on international tournaments and competitions hosted by the country

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1

In which men's team sport did India win gold in the first Asian games held in New Delhi?

QUESTION 2

Australia beat Germany in the final of this World Cup held in India in 2010. Name the sport.

QUESTION 3

Name the player who won his first title beating Viswanathan Anand in the World Chess Championship 2013 held in Chennai.

QUESTION 4

Who won the race when India last hosted a Formula 1 race? Also, name the circuit used for the race.

QUESTION 5

After hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2008 in New Delhi, India is preparing to host the Games again in the coming year. When will the games take place and in which city?

Visual question:

Name this Manchester City and England star who won the golden ball when England won the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup, the only FIFA event to be held in India. AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. *Foe* is a metafictional rewriting of this famous novel. **Ans: Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe***

2. In *The Master of Petersburg*, the author employs this real-life Russian writer as the protagonist. **Ans: Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

3. Mr. Coetzee was the first author to be conferred with the _____ twice. **Ans: Booker Prize**

4. This character created by Coetzee delivers lectures comparing animal slaughter to the Holocaust. **Ans: Elizabeth Costello**

5. *Summertime* marks the final instalment in a trilogy. Name the other two books. **Ans: *Boyhood* (1997) and *Youth* (2002)**

6. Coetzee became only the second South African, after _____, to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. **Ans: Nadine Gordimer**

7. The title of the author's first book. **Ans: *Dusklands***

Visual: This Coetzee novel was adapted for the screen. **Ans: *Waiting For The Barbarians***

Early Birds: Sunil Madhavan| Anil Warrier| Soumendra Banerjee| M. Suresh Kumar| Tito Shiladitya

Word of the day

Pugnacity:
a natural disposition to be hostile

Synonyms: aggressiveness, belligerence

Usage: *He is legendary for his pugnacity.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pugnacitypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pʌgˈnæsəti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Advertisement

UTTAR PRADESH

ADVANCING QUALITY HEALTHCARE FOR A HEALTHIER FUTURE

In approx 9 years, the Yogi government has transformed Uttar Pradesh's healthcare system through a mission-driven approach focused on quality, accessibility, and infrastructure expansion. Guided by the principle of "Health for All," the state has ensured cashless treatment of up to ₹5 lakh for over 9 crore beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. The One District–One Medical College initiative has significantly strengthened medical education and specialist services, while facilities such as dialysis centers, CT scan services, and Health ATMs are now available in every district. Simultaneously, the development of Medical Device Parks, Bulk Drug Parks, and MedTech Parks is positioning Uttar Pradesh as an emerging hub for healthcare manufacturing and innovation. Driven by strong policies and effective implementation, Uttar Pradesh has entered a new era of modern, inclusive, and people-centric healthcare, establishing itself among the leading states in healthcare delivery.

STRATEGIC HEALTH SECTOR GOALS FOR 2047

- Achieving universal access to primary healthcare
- Strengthening the network of Health & Wellness Centres and Primary Health Centres
- Developing Pharma and MedTech hubs
- Comprehensive development of the healthcare workforce
- Integrating AI and genomics in healthcare
- Implementing advanced digital health systems

EXPANDING HORIZONS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Under the 'One District, One Medical College' policy, 81 medical colleges are operational in the state

Establishment of Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University in Gorakhpur to promote excellence in Yoga and Naturopathy research

AIIMS Gorakhpur and AIIMS Raebareli are functioning and providing advanced medical services

A Government Ayurvedic Medical College has been established in Ayodhya

A Government Homeopathic Medical College has been set up in Varanasi

Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University is operational in Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh currently runs 2,110 Ayurvedic, 254 Unani, and 1,585 Homeopathic hospitals, along with 8 Ayurvedic colleges, 2 Unani colleges, and 9 Homeopathic colleges, each with their respective attached hospitals

The number of MD, MS, and Diploma seats has increased from 900 to 1,871 and the private sector now offers 2,100 PG seats

In government institutions, 5,250 MBBS seats are available; the private sector offers 6,550 MBBS seats, and PPP-mode medical colleges have 350 MBBS seats

An additional 7,000 seats have been created in nursing, and 2,000 seats in the paramedical sector

A total of 31 new nursing colleges have been established across the state

HEALTHCARE SERVICES STRENGTHENED IN APPROX 9 YEAR

Every poor family has received free health protection coverage of up to ₹5 lakh, with 56.30 lakh beneficiaries already availing treatment benefits

Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Uttar Pradesh has issued the highest number of Ayushman cards in the country 5.35 crore, covering over 9 crore beneficiaries so far

250 Advanced Life Support ambulances, 2,270 National Ambulance Service vehicles, and 2,200 ambulances under the 108 service are operational across the state

Health ATMs installed in all Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across Uttar Pradesh

Establishment of 5,000 new Health Sub-Centres across the state

With the creation of 13.18 crore ABHA Health Accounts, Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country

Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, 5,834 hospitals (including 2,949 government and 2,885 private hospitals) have been empaneled in the state

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Cashless Medical Scheme implemented for state government employees and pensioners

Under the Mukhyamantri Arogya Swasthya Melas, 13.50 crore patients have received treatment so far

Teleconsultation services have been arranged for patients in remote areas, benefitting 3.54 crore patients so far

Free dialysis facilities made available in district hospitals of all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh

Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, 6.81 lakh TB patients have been registered, and under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, each patient receives ₹500 per month along with treatment

Under the Free Diagnostic Service, CT Scan facilities are available in 74 districts of the state

UP AI Mission

Under the UP AI Mission, projects worth approximately ₹2,000 crore will be implemented in phases over the next three years, positioning Uttar Pradesh at the forefront of AI-driven healthcare in the country

From Page One

HC denies anticipatory bail to Basavaraj

"...the political power that the petitioner wields and noticing that the deceased and his mother stays within the same constituency [represented by Mr. Basavaraj], there is a possibility of fair investigation being hampered," the High Court observed.

Without referring in detail to the material presented by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is probing the case, the court said that "it could be stated that the CDRs contain information which the petitioner is required to explain. There is sufficient force in the assertion of the Prosecution based on the investigation records that the petitioner has much to explain".

It was contended on behalf of CID that though the petitioner has contended that he has co-operated with investigation, despite his right against self-incrimination, he cannot attempt to mislead the investigating authority. The CID had also claimed that Mr. Basavaraj had "feigned ignorance regarding Jagadish alias Jagga, while the investigation records contains material in the form of photograph and CDRs to demonstrate that the petitioner is attempting to mislead the investigation".

On the arguments that Shivaprakash's mother had not named Mr. Basavaraj in her complainant, the court noted the there was sufficient force in CID's claim, citing her statement recorded before the magistrate, that she was "under fear", and it cannot be brushed aside.

Initially, Mr. Basavaraj (Accused no. 5), charged with conspiracy and murder, secured interim protection from the High Court in August 2025 against coercive action by challenging FIR. Later, the CID invoked the stringent Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) against all 20 accused, including him, during the pendency of his petition against the FIR. On December 19, 2025, the High Court quashed the KCOCA invocation against him and others. Subsequently, Mr. Basavaraj withdrew his earlier petition and sought anticipatory bail from the High Court, which directed him to approach the sessions court.

On December 23, a special court rejected his plea, citing incomplete investigation against him and one other, despite a charge sheet being filed against the remaining 18 accused. He then filed the present petition before the High Court.

CID begins hunt for Byrathi Basavaraj

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the High Court of Karnataka denied anticipatory bail to former Minister and MLA for K.R. Puram Byrathi Basavaraj in the realtor 'Bikla' Shiva murder case, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) formed multiple special teams and began a hunt for the legislator. At the time of going to print, the CID was yet to make a breakthrough on Tuesday night.

This is not the first time that the MLA has been absconding. In December, 2025, during the Winter Session of the legislature in Belagavi, the MLA went underground after the High Court while providing him relief from the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act, 2000, asked him to approach the sessions court for anticipatory bail. During the intervening time, the CID was looking for him, but he remained elusive.

CID sources said multiple teams were looking for the MLA both in Bengaluru and outside as well. It had questioned some of his associates to ascertain his location.

Sources said that there were chances of the MLA approaching the Supreme Court challenging the High Court order and he might try to remain elusive till relief in the apex court.

DKS skips pre-Budget meeting, attends party event in New Delhi

Explaining his deputy's absence, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the former had informed him about his travel to Delhi for AICC-related meetings concerning the Assam Assembly elections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The power-sharing tussle within the Karnataka Congress appeared to escalate on Tuesday as Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar skipped a pre-Budget meeting of two key departments and travelled to New Delhi, sharpening focus on internal party tensions.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, responding to questions on the leadership row, reiterated that the party high command's decision would be final. "Why do you keep asking? If Mr. Shivakumar has said something, ask him," he said, adding that he would not visit New Delhi unless formally invited, citing Budget-related engagements in Bengaluru.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar addressing presspersons in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

> Why do you keep asking [about leadership row]? If Mr. Shivakumar has said something [on leadership], ask him
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

> The Chief Minister and I know what we discussed, and it was in consultation with the party high command
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister

'Refrain from comment'

Mr. Shivakumar, meanwhile, cautioned party leaders against making public statements on leadership change, stating that such remarks would only harm the party.

He said AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge had directed leaders to refrain from commenting on power-sharing issues.

"I don't hide anything. The Chief Minister and I know what we discussed, and it was in consultation with the party high command," Mr Shivakumar said, in an apparent reference to the power-sharing understanding reached during the formation of the Congress government in May 2023.

'DKS informed me'

Explaining the Deputy Chief Minister's absence from the pre-Budget meeting of the Water Resources and Bengaluru Urban Development Departments, Mr. Siddaramaiah said Mr. Shivakumar had informed him about his travel to Delhi for AICC-related meetings concerning the upcoming Assam Assembly elections.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has been appointed the Congress election in-charge for Assam, said department work would not be affected by his absence. "The Chief Minister is the chairman of the Water Resources Department. Officers are present and everything is planned," he said.

However, his Delhi visit has once again brought internal Congress dynamics in Karnataka under the spotlight. Party sources said Mr. Shivakumar is expected to discuss political developments in the State with senior leaders.

Congress sources also indicated that no leadership change or Cabinet reshuffle is likely in the coming months, at least until the completion of Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

'100 acres available for ARAI facility in Mandya'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU:

The Karnataka government has announced the availability of 100 acres in Mandya for the establishment of the country's first Construction and Infrastructure Equipment Testing facility proposed at an estimated cost of ₹500 crore.

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil in a written communication to Union Minister for Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy has sought directions to the Automative Research Association of India (ARAI) to submit a detailed project proposal.

Mr. Patil's announcement came following a letter from Mr. Kumaraswamy in January seeking the required land. He has said that the Mandya Deputy Commissioner has informed availability of 105 acres of government land in Muddanaghatta and Heggadithihalli villages of Basaralu hobli in Mandya taluk. The land is located barely 500 metres from the Mandya-Nagamangala State highway, he pointed out.

He said that more land than the originally sought is available, and urged the ARAI representatives and the Union Ministry's officials to undertake a joint inspection.

6,222 fresh applications still pending before taluk/district panels

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

DEVADASIS SURVEY

Amid questions over the nearly 50% decline in the number of former Devadasis across 15 districts in Karnataka in the latest survey report, 6,222 fresh applications to be included in the list of former Devadasis are pending before taluk/district-level committees

The survey numbers released on Tuesday are of the surviving former Devadasis and their first, second, and third generation family members, Women and Child Development Department sources said.

"Though 6,222 fresh applications for inclusion have been submitted, Deputy Commissioners have not decided on them yet. We have communicated to the DCs on multiple occasions to hasten the process but to no avail," sources said.

Of the 23,265 persons not in the list, most are deceased while some refused to participate in the survey owing to their upward social mobility and stigma attached, the official claimed.

From 46,660 former Devadasis identified in 2007-2008, the numbers have declined to 23,395 in the latest survey conducted between September 15 and December 31, 2025. Interestingly, about 30,000 former Devadasis are receiving pension.

Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar presenting the report of the survey of Devadasis to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The list is not final. There may be many genuine cases among the fresh applicants. Once the district and State-level committees approve the fresh applications, they will be added to the list. The 23,395 identified former Devadasis cannot be made to wait for benefits till the fresh applications are looked into," a senior official said.

On the first, second, and third generation family members of the deceased to be included, the official said: "Many have come forward by providing details. The applications of deceased former Devadasi families will also be considered."

The official also pointed out the legal hurdle preventing all applicants to be directly considered as former devadasis. Those claiming to have been dedicated to the Devadasi tradition post 1982 cannot be considered since a legislation has been passed prohibiting the practise, the official pointed out.

'An eyewash'

Meanwhile, Yamanurappa Halavagli, State convener of Vimuktha Devadasi Mahila Mathu Makkala Vedike Karnataka, termed the survey as "flawed" and said it was an "eyewash".

"This was not a house-to-house survey and considered only those above 45 years, citing legal issue. There was no awareness about the survey among many too," he said.

Pointing out that the purpose of the survey was to identify and include women who have remained excluded from the list, R.V. Chandrashekar, member of the State-level committee said: "The department hurried through before the additions could be done. In several districts, committees have not held meetings. The State-level committee has not met even once."

He further claimed that the survey has not considered most of the first, second, and third generation members of the deceased former Devadasis. "In several cases, women who went to apply were threatened with legal consequences," he alleged.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL that, hereby bring to the notice of general public that My Client M. Vidya Shree W/o. Arvind A Pol, residing at No. 23, 2nd Cross D SouzaLayout, Hosakerehalli R.R. Nagar, Opp to V. Legacy Convention Hall, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Benglauru- 560085 have lost/misplaced & unable to trace out pages No.15, 16, 24 of Sale Deed dated 25.04.2022, registered as document No.896/2022-23, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kanakapura, Bangalore, while shifting. In this connection, have lodged a Complaint/Lost Report No.2043674/2026 dated 04.02.2026 with the Bangalore City Police with regard to the loss of the aforesaid original pages No. 15, 16, 24 of the Sale Deed dtd 25.04.2022

If any Person/s who finds it, are requested to return at the below mentioned Address within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

In the event of not getting any information about the same said original Pages of sale deed within the time frame mentioned herein, my client shall act upon the Certified Copy of the afore said Sale Deed, as if, the same is the original.

Sd/- Mahesha HK, Advocate ,
No. 12, 1st Flr, Opp. JJ Complex, Sub Registrar's office, Vijayanagar Building, No. 163, 18th Crs Rd, Govindraraja Nagar Ward, MC Lyt, Vijayanagar , Bengaluru- 40, **Mob: 98458-91477/ M. VidyaShree- Mob: 8310221132**

New products of Mysore Sandal Soap launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia during the unveiling of new products of KSDL in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. (KSDL) on Tuesday launched a range of new products under its flagship Mysore Sandal Soap brand, with actor Tamannaah Bhatia, the company's brand ambassador, formally unveiling the portfolio.

Ms. Bhatia has been appointed as the brand face to promote Mysore Sandal Soap's cosmetic and personal care range, including newly introduced face wash products, across various media platforms. The initiative is aimed at enhancing brand visibility and expanding its appeal, particularly among younger consumers, while strengthening the brand's presence in national and international markets.

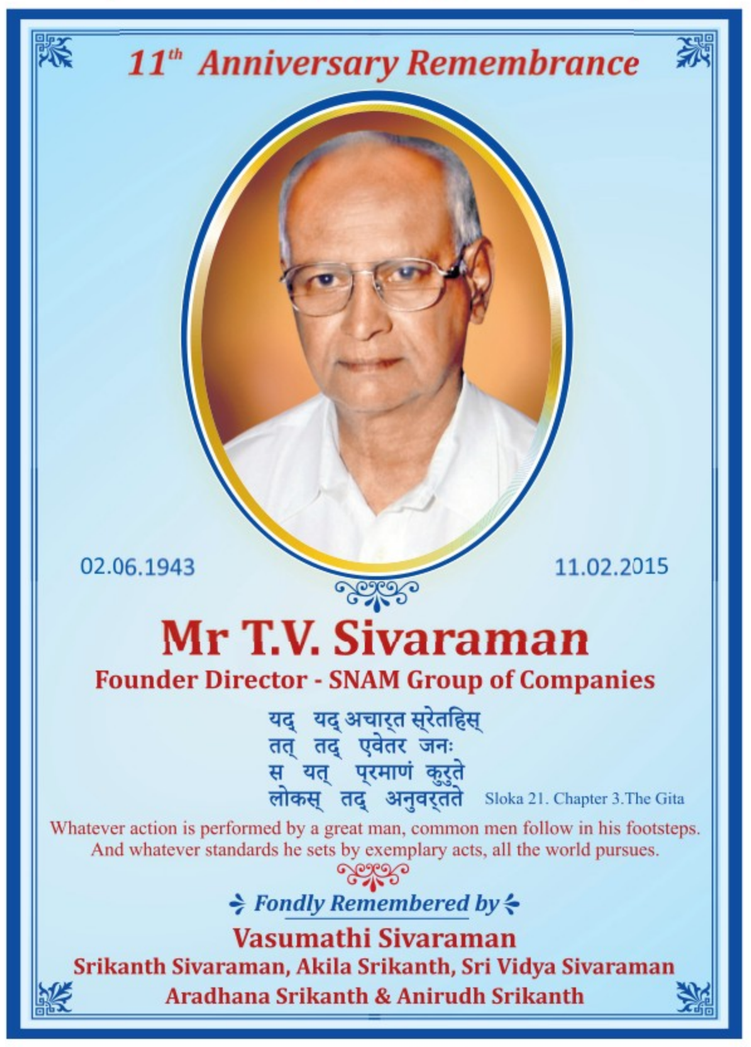
The public sector undertaking (PSU) claimed it recorded its highest-ever turnover over the past three years, with revenues rising to ₹1,787 crore in 2024-25, compared with ₹1,571 crore in 2023-24 and ₹1,375 crore in 2022-23. Profits increased from ₹182.49 crore in 2022-23 to ₹451 crore in 2024-25, the company said in a release.

The company paid dividend of ₹54.75 crore in 2022-23, ₹108.62 crore in 2023-24 and ₹134.84 crore in 2024-25 to the State government, besides a special dividend of ₹360.10 crore in 2023-24. KSDL also contributed ₹5 crore each in 2023-24 and 2024-25 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the release said. Despite being a traditional public sector enterprise, KSDL has expanded into e-commerce and modern trade sectors, said the release.

The event was attended by Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil, and Appaji C.S. Nadagouda, chairman of KSDL and MLA for Muddebihal, among others.

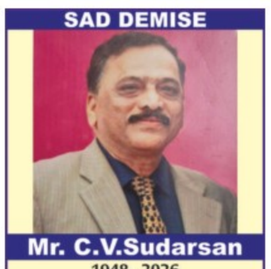
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE



DEATH

SAD DEMISE



Mr. C.V.Sudarsan
1948 - 2026
Passed away peacefully on 08-Feb-2026
Om Shanti
Last rites on 11-Feb-2026
No.51/2, 7th Cross Street,
Shenoy Nagar, Chennai-30
Deeply missed by the beloved family
Rukmani, Roopa, Balaji, Siddhartha, Vaishnavi, Nakul, Rohan and Urvi

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client **Mrs. Gayathri Devi L S,** W/o Mr. Vijay Kumar D, residing at # G2, V R Classic Apartment, 7th A Main, 1st A Cross, Opp. Sri Vinayaka Highland Apartment, Sarvabhoumanagara, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru-560 061. Are intending to purchase the Schedule Property from **M/s. Bhoomi Ventures,** having its registered office at # 19, 2nd Floor, Amruthahalli Main Road, Amruthahalli, Bengaluru-560 092. Who is the owner of the property bearing, all that piece and parcel of the residential vacant property bearing **Vacant Site bearing No. 02, 03, 04,** formed in residential converted land bearing **Survey No.40/1,** all the 3 sites measuring **111.41 Sq. Metres** respectively, situated at **Kempadyapanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk (presently Bengaluru South District),** which is more fully described in schedule hereunder. Apart from the said owner if any person/s has/have any kind of right, title, interest and claim or whatsoever in respect of the schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file the objections along with documentary proof ***within 15 days*** from the date of this publication to the below referred address. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that the above referred is the absolute owner of the schedule property and there are no other claimants.

SCHEDULE-PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential **(1) Vacant Site bearing No.02,** Katha No. 222/02, PID No.152900400301420801 **(2) Vacant Site bearing No.03,** Katha No.222/03, PID No.152900400301420803 **(3) Vacant Site bearing No.04,** Katha No.222/04, PID No.152900400301420804, situated at **Kempadyapanahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk (presently Bengaluru South District),** and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances there to whatsoever underneath or above the surface and all 3 sites measuring respectively:-

East to West: 12.19 metres,
North to South: 12.19 metres
Total area: 111.41 square mtrs,

And bounded as per the Sanction Plan vide document No. GBBSCPA/LAO/06/2020-21 dt: 23/09/2022 issued by Greater Bangalore - Bidadi Smart City Project, Bangalore.

Kiran Kadam. S, Advocate
HMK Law Associates
No 214, Anjandri Nilya, 1st Floor, 4th Main, 10th Cross, BEML Layout, 1st Main Road, Basaveshwarnagar, Bengaluru-560079.
Contact No: 9901553254.
E-Mail: s.kirankadam@gmail.com

T.N. Idol Wing all set to bring back antique stone pillar from Vienna

The pillar from 18th-19th century is likely to have been stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu; it is made of light buff granite block usually found in north-western regions of the State; Austrian agencies ready to begin restitution process

R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

Such pillars are commonly found in many temples in Tamil Nadu, say experts. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An antique stone pillar, possibly stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, has been traced to Vienna in Austria.

Following an alert from Austrian authorities, the Idol Wing-CID of the Tamil Nadu Police has launched steps to bring back the pillar, said to be from the 18th to 19th century.

The officers of the IW-CID have been working to recover stolen idols and artefacts from within the country as well as abroad. During the course of their work, Additional Deputy Superintendent of Police, G. Balamurugan, received information that an antique pillar, about half a tonne in weight and featuring a bas-relief of a deity, possibly Lord Vishnu, Garuda, a saint, and Hamsa bird (a decorated swan), had been seized by the Austrian authorities.

The IW-CID got photographs of the pillar from the Federal Ministry of Interior Criminal Intelligence Service, Cultural Property Unit, Austria. Owing to the common nature of the pillar (found in many temples in Tamil Nadu), its exact provenance could not be located.

"It appears that the pillar was stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu," Additional Director General of Police, Idol Wing, D. Kalpana Nayak, said. The curator of the IW-CID found that the pillar was made of light buff granite block usually found in north-western regions of Tamil Nadu (approximately Krishnagiri-Dharmapuri belt) or adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu such as Kolar district of Karnataka or Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, Ms. Nayak said. The curator said it could also be from small *mandapas* (pillared halls) usually erected in front of the main shrine, as a smaller temple for Nandhi and Garuda.

Austrian agencies said they were ready to start the process of restitution.

Data-driven decision making to be deployed at KIA; pact inked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

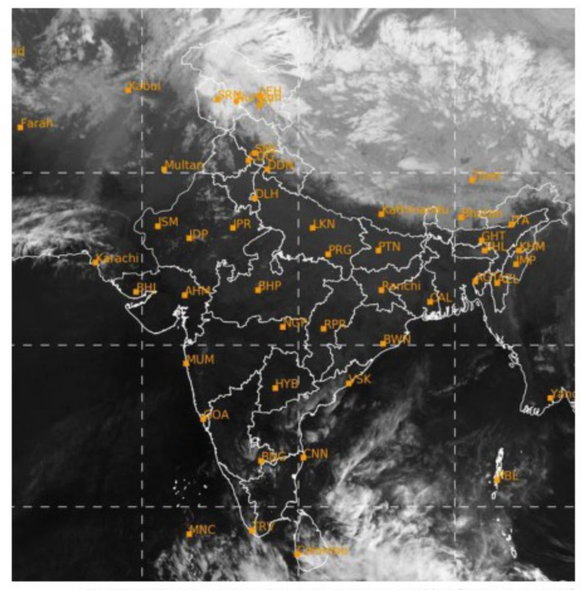
Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) on Tuesday entered into a strategic partnership with Mu Sigma, a global decision sciences company, to strengthen its customer-first approach by deploying data-driven decision-making across airport operations.

The collaboration aims to position Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, as an "algorithmic airport", where real-time data and advanced analytics are used to anticipate passenger needs, improve operational efficiency, and enhance overall travel experience, according to a release by BIAL.

It said the partnership would help unify data from multiple systems across the airport to enable proactive service delivery. By leveraging Mu Sigma's Decision Intelligence Platform and analytical models, BIAL plans to deepen the use of predictive analytics across key passenger and operational touchpoints. BIAL officials said that this will allow airport teams to identify patterns, forecast demand and optimise services in real time.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Squally weather with wind speed 35 to 45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph likely to prevail over some parts of south-east and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal adjoining to east Equatorial Indian Ocean

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	12.4	Kozhikode	—	34.5	24.9
Ahmedabad	—	31.3	17.0	Kurnool	—	34.1	19.2
Aizawl	—	29.0	13.6	Lucknow	—	26.4	10.0
Allahabad	—	28.8	10.9	Madurai	—	32.7	20.0
Bengaluru	—	29.9	16.4	Mangaluru	—	33.0	22.9
Bhopal	—	30.4	12.8	Mumbai	—	31.6	19.0
Bhubaneswar	—	32.3	15.0	Mysuru	—	31.4	15.6
Chandigarh	—	25.8	9.3	New Delhi	—	28.6	9.2
Chennai	—	30.3	22.0	Patna	—	25.6	13.1
Coimbatore	—	32.4	19.8	Port Blair	—	31.0	23.6
Dehradun	—	25.5	9.6	Puducherry	—	30.0	21.0
Gangtok	—	17.4	9.0	Pune	—	34.0	18.6
Goa	—	32.2	21.0	Raipur	—	31.3	15.9
Guwahati	—	28.6	13.5	Ranchi	—	27.0	10.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	16.0	Shillong	—	18.4	6.9
Hyderabad	—	31.8	16.5	Shimla	—	17.6	8.0
Imphal	—	27.0	8.9	Srinagar	—	6.7	3.3
Jaipur	—	27.3	14.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.6	23.8
Kochi	—	31.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	30.5	20.0
Kohima	—	21.4	8.4	Vijayawada	—	30.6	20.0
Kolkata	—	28.4	14.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.4	20.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	103	20	... 105	...114	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	16	... 238	...140	
Chennai	...7	4	54	... 166	...357	
Delhi	...8	231	88	... 323	...342	
Hyderabad	.12	..50	72	... 101	...107	
Kolkata	.10	133	35	... 217	...181	
Lucknow	.11	..42	40	... 241	...146	
Mumbai	..—	..92	85	 84	...112	
Pune	..—	..64	66	... 237	...146	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..70	17	... 155	...171	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwani, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 336 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Excise Dept. earns over ₹33K cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Excise Department has achieved revenue collection of ₹33,371.47 crore as of January 31, as against the target of ₹40,000 crore in the 2025-26 financial year.

18 arrested for cheating in Army recruitment exam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Halasuru police have arrested 18 candidates for allegedly using sophisticated electronic devices to cheat during a recruitment examination conducted at the 515 Army Base Workshop, Halasuru on February 8.

All the arrested candidates are reportedly from Haryana and have been identified as Surender, Sandeep, Monty, Anuj, Ajay Kumar, Sumit, Rahul, Aman, Ankit, Vikas, Yogesh, Aman Redu, Rajat, Ankit, Vinay, Aman Kumar, Manish and Prashant.

The incident allegedly occurred during the direct recruitment written examination for Group 'C' Lower Division Clerk (LDC) posts, conducted under the supervision of Selection Board No. 3. Officials detected suspicious behaviour during the exam and allegedly uncovered a coordinated attempt by multiple candidates to manipulate the results using technology.

During searches conducted inside the examination hall and its premises, officials seized three mobile phones and 12 electronic communication devices allegedly used for malpractice. Some devices were found concealed on the candidates, while additional electronic gadgets were recovered from bags kept outside the exam hall belonging to Aman and Rajat, the police said.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DAVANAGERE DIVI, DAVANAGERE.
No.EE:PWD:Dvg/AE-3:IFT-40:2025-26/3393 Dated:- 09.02.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref : This office tender notification No. IFT-40/2025-26 dated : 09.02.2026

The works under Head of Account 4059~80~051~0~60~132 CMIDP, 4 works with minimum amount Rs. 100.00 lakhs and maximum amount Rs. 975.00 lakhs (Sl.No. 1 & 2, Indent No. 32311, 32308, Sl.No. 3, Indent No.32310 and Sl.No.4 Indent No. 32309) Head of Account 3054-03-102-0-01-200 SH Bridge maintenance 1 work amount Rs. 25.20 lakhs (Sl.No.5 Indent No. 28779) pertaining to Honnali and Harihara sub divisions under the Jurisdiction of PWD, Davanagere division has been called for the tenders from registered Contractors in KPWD for the above works through KPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Details of dates	Sl no. 1, 2 Works	Sl no 3 Works	Sl no 4 Works	Sl no 5 Works
1. Last Date & time for tender queries	10.02.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	10.02.2026 Tim 4.00 P.M.	10.02.2026 Tim 4.00 P.M.	10.02.2026 Tim 4.00 P.M.
2. Prebid meeting held : office of Executive enginner, PWD division, Davanagere.	13.02.2026 Timing 11.30 A.M.	13.02.2026 Tim 11.30 A.M.	-	-
3. Last Date & time for receipt of tenders	25.02.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	17.02.2026 Tim 4.00 P.M.	17.02.2026 Tim 4.00 P.M.	17.02.2026 Tim 4.00 P.M.
4. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid :	26.02.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.	18.02.2026 Tim 4.30 P.M.	18.02.2026 Tim 4.30 P.M.	18.02.2026 Tim 4.30 P.M.

Further details can be obtained from this office in office hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/729/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Davanagere

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023,
Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-4&10/TND/2025-26/3923 Date: 10.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakh) (Excluding GST)	EMD (Rs. In Lakh)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction OPD Block at TLH Sedam Town, Kalaburagi District.	346.00	5.19	11 Months
2	Upgradation of PHC to CHC at Kaiwara in Chintamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura District.	456.33	6.85	11 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **13.03.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **16.03.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director (AH), Ground Floor, KR Puram, BECC Sub-Division Office, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036
No: BECC/2025-26/SE0013/CALL-2 Date: 10.02.2026

SHORT TERM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
For Implementing Animal Birth Control (ABC), Mass Dog Vaccination (ARV & Combined). For Stray Dogs In Mahadevapura Zone (Zone-1) Of Bengaluru East City Corporation.

(1) Date of Commencement of Download of EOI Document from Karnataka public Procurement portal website http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in.: **From 10/02/2026 (2)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries' in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **Upto 16/02/2026 5:00pm (3)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **16/02/2026 at 2:30 PM** at the following venue: Office of the AD(AH), Ground floor, KR Puram BECC Sub-Division Office, KR Puram, Bengaluru-560036 **(4)** Last Date and Time for uploading of EOI in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **up to 24/02/2026 5:00 PM (5)** Date and Time of Opening of EOI in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **25/02/2026, 5:10 PM (6) Place of Opening of EOI :** Online at Karnataka public Procurement portal.

Sd/- Assistant Director (AH), BECC

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARUNDHUTI Goswami, w/o; Rahul Barooah, r/o: F.No.10121, Prestige Tranquility Apt, Budigere, Bommenehalli, Blr – 560049. Have changed my name as Arundhuti Goswami Barooah.

I, ARPITHA Ananth Gabbita, w/o; Ananth Gabbita, r/o: A–6, Vaswani Bella Vista, Seetharamapalya–Hoodi Rd, Sonnenahalli, Mahadevapura, Blr – 560048. Have changed my name as Arpitha Satyanarayana Rao.

I, SURESH Nagpal, Residing at No.201, R J Manor, 7th Main, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034, have changed my name from Suresh Kumar Nagpal to Suresh Nagpal vide affidavit dated 05-02-2026 sworn before Notary Mamatha.N.K. Bengaluru.

I, SEJAL Ben W/o Rajesh Patel, residing at Flat No. S 2003, Kinglife Paradise, No.5, Marappa Road, Ulsoor, Bangaluru-560008 have changed my name to Sejal Rajesh Patel for all purposes vide affidavit dated 09.02.2026 before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, SOUMYA Ramesh Rao r/o No 436 A Block Mahaveer Calyx 4th Floor Nayappanahalli BTM LYT 4th STG Bengaluru –76 has changed our minor Daughter name from Dhriti to Dhriti M for all purpose vide affidavit no IN–KA6561145807345 4Y dated 30–JAN–2026, sworn before Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman Public Notary.

I, Cherlopalli Mohan Krishna Gautam Krishna, Son of Mohan Krishna Cherlopalli Srinivasa, aged about 30 years residing at A107, Pavani Park West Apartment, Inner Circle Road, Dodsworth Layout, Whitefield, Bangalore, 560066, declare that C M Gautam Krishna, Cerlopalli Mohan Krishna Gautam Krishna and Cherlopalli Mohan Krishna Gautam Krishna refer to the same person. Henceforth, I will use Cherlopalli Mohan Krishna Gautam Krishna for all legal purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHMAD Tabraz S/o Yahya Mahmood Qureshi, R/a No.188, Baitul Arsh, 10th crs, Near Masjid-E-Farooq, Williams Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Mohammed Tabrez vide affidavit dt: 10.02.2026 before Notary Meer Hassan, B'lore

I, SYED Javeed Ahmed, R/at No. #197/1, Tulips M V Layout, Chikka Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043, have changed my name from Javed Khayum to Syed Javeed Ahmed vide Affidavit dated 07-02-2026 sworn before Notary A.S.Narayana Reddy, Bangalore.

LOST & FOUND

I, MEENU Krishnan R daughter of N K Krishna Kumar, Shreyas, Ayira, Parassala is hereby publish the loss of my following Original Certificates: – 1) Govt.of Kerala SSLC Register No. 566410 March 2005, Studied at St.Thereses Convent Girls H S, Neyyattinkara. I am applying for duplicate SSLC. Those who have any objection to issue duplicate Certificate to me may write to the Secretary, Board of Public Examinations, Pareeksha Bhavan, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram within 15 days from the date of this advertisement. 2) M.Sc Software Engineering, Certificate No 96307710038/RG, Studied at Noorul Islam College of Engineering (Anna University Chennai) Kumaracoil. Kanyakumari during the academic year 2007–2012. 3) M.E Computer Science and Engineering, Certificate No.961612405009/RG Studied at Marthandam College of Engineering and Technology, (Anna University Chennai), Kuttakuzhi, Marthandam, Kanyakumari during the academic years 2012–2014. All the above Certificates have been irrecoverably lost at Bangalore. If anybody finds these Certificates, kindly return them to: Meenu Krishnan R, B–202, Sradha Splendor, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560066, Mob 7899915350.

BUYING / SELLING

SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE

We Buy Old (Damaged) Silk Sarees, Silk Dhothies, Silver Jarigai, Tissue Sarees, Banaras, Mysore Silk at any Condition, Stone Articles (Best Price with Jaree). AT ANY CONDITIONS
SPOT CASH
DATE 11-02-2026 to 21-02-2026
SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE
No. 58, Krishna Building, Sampige Road, 5th Cross, Near Malleswaram Bridge, Bangalore.
CALL - 9632781499

EDUCATIONAL

VACANCIES

WANTED Tai chi Teacher for taking classes in well equipped studio in Kanakapura Road. please Contact: Sudhi on- 7760787881 / 7760625998

WANTED Pranic Healing Teacher to take classes in well equipped studio in Kanakapura Road. please Contact Sudhi- 7760787881/ 7760625998

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTIFICATION

VIJAY®

CAUTION

VIJAY brand is the business brand for marketing and distribution of Curry Masala and other consumer items established and owned by Moolans family at Kochi, Kerala. Any Individuals or business establishments acquire or buy this Brand without the consents of the entire family will face legal actions including Civil and criminal charges.

VARGHESE SEBASTIAN MOOLAN
Chairman, Varghese Moolan Group
09/02/2026 | Kochi

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNOUNCEMENT : Indian Federation of Adventure Sports & Racing is to conduct Obstacle Course Racing National Championships for 2026, tentatively in March. Entities keen upon sponsoring and conducting the event may submit their proposal at contactifasr@gmail.com by 20 Feb 2026.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

WANTED Sound therapy healing practitioner for well equipped studio in Kanakapura Road. please Contact: Sudhi on- 7760787881/ 7760625998

TENDERS

Chennai Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department

Notice for e-Tender
Tender No. T/JDC/2/2026/E

Online bids are invited under two bid system for **'Construction of At-grade Road connecting Chennai Port - Maduravoyal Elevated Corridor (CPM) & Other internal roads and improvement of the Intersections on Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) basis'.**

Estimated Cost Put to tender: **Rs.3599.16 lakhs (approx.) excl. GST.**

For details visit our website:
www.chennaiport.gov.in &
http://eprocure.gov.in
Chief Engineer

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Tr(Op)/C-S/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(09)/25-26/5393-94 Date: 09.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry **no. KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/C-S/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-5, Dated 01.10.2024** for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 220kV Hoody-Malur SC Line Between Tower no.16 and Tower no.22 in Anugraha Layout by providing 3 nos. of proposed new intermediate towers of 220kV DD plus zero Gadag-Bagalkote design tower, 220kV DB/DE plus 6 NBT NRS-Laggere design Tower in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op), South Circle, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E-Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.02.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Elecl.), Transmission (Operation) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref :PWD:MD:TND:(46E): 2025-26:JE-2 Dated: 09.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION / SHORTERM TENDER
(Karnataka Public E-Procurement Portal)

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Division. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTPP Act Indent No: 32075, 32073, 32072, 32071, 32070, 32069, 32064, 32068, 32076, 32074, 32067, 32066, 32063 **The Last date for reciept of tender extended to 19.02.2026 upto 17.00 Hours.**

Indent No: 33081 under the **Head of Account 5054-04-337-0-01-154 District Roads and Improvements. The Last date for reciept of tender extended to 24.02.2026 upto 17.00 Hours**.

In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.50.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs. 100.00 Lakhs. Tenders for the above works are invited as per the Standard Tender Document KW-3. Further details such as value of work, amount put to tender, EMD etc., can be accessed on the KPP Portal at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, for more details can contact O/o, Case Worker, Executive Engineer's Office, PWD, Mangaluru Division, Mangaluru during official working hours. Contact No: 0824-2423169.

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1565/25-26 dt.10.02.2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೇಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ –571311
ಕಛೇರಿ : 0821-2517555, ಇಮೇಲ್: mysoreds@.com

ಸಂ: ಜಿಆ&ಸಾರೋಆಮೈ/ಸರಬ/ರಾಆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ರೋಗಿಗಳ ಹಿತದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ **ಔಷಧಿ/ರಾಸಾಯನಿಕಗಳು/ಸರ್ಜಿಕಲ್ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿಗಳು/ಪಿಕೋಪಕರಣಗಳ ಸರಬರಾಜಿಗಾಗಿ** ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಆಸಕ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿಯು ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ **31.03.2026ರವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೌಲ್ಯ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ **ರೂ. 55.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು.**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 07.02.2026 2)** ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.02.2026 3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.02.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 4)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.02.2026 5)** ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 25.02.2026 6)** ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ: **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು. 7)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 55.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು 8)** EMD amount 2% of the Tender Amount: **ರೂ. 1,10,000/–(ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಹತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ).** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– **ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು**
DIPR/MYS/1642/SA/2025-26 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ

New beginnings

The end of START should prompt discussions on wider and equal terms

On February 5, 2026, the 'New' Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) expired. A symbol of an older era in global geopolitics, where the U.S. and the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were engaged in an escalating spiral of one-upmanship such as 'testing' mammoth nuclear weapons and space races, START represented a pivotal shift in how they approached nuclear competition – from unlimited accumulation towards negotiated reduction. It emerged from decades of arms control efforts and altered the trajectory of the Cold War's final years. The nuclear arms race that dominated the Cold War saw both superpowers accumulate massive arsenals. By the 1980s, they each possessed over 10,000 strategic nuclear warheads – the U.S. with a lopsided advantage. Earlier arms control measures such as the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks, in the 1970s, attempted to limit the growth of these arsenals, but were focused on capping numbers rather than reducing them.

START I negotiations began in 1982 and proved complex. The treaty was not signed until July 1991, just months before the Soviet Union's collapse. It represented the first agreement between the superpowers to actually reduce strategic nuclear arsenals rather than merely limit their growth. The treaty required each side to cut strategic warheads to 6,000 and reduce delivery systems proportionally. This was a significant symbolic and practical achievement – each country would have roughly 30% fewer warheads than existing agreements permitted. Later agreements built on START's framework and reduced deployable warheads to 1,700-2,200 a side, and the New START Treaty (2010) limited each side to 1,550 deployed strategic warheads. Each represented further progress down from Cold War peaks. The New START, with its 15-year lifespan, ought to have been replaced with more ambitious outcomes. But given that global geopolitics seems to be receding into imperialist structures – mercantilist tariff systems and a craving for territories – it is unsurprising that arms-race doctrines too will be resuscitated. U.S. President Donald Trump has stated that any future arms control must include China, given its growing nuclear stockpile, signalling that the U.S. will not be bound by limits if other major powers (such as China) are free to build up theirs. The end of START may have serious consequences for global agreements, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. They are both noble in theory but the first is discriminatory in the way it seeks to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The end of START is an opportunity to restart discussion on more equal terms.

Takaichi's triumph

Japan should go beyond conservatism and adopt an inclusive agenda

Sanae Takaichi's landslide victory in Japan's February 8 snap election marks one of the most striking political comebacks in its recent history. The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won 316 of 465 seats in Parliament's lower house, delivering its strongest post-war performance. When Ms. Takaichi became Japan's first woman Prime Minister in October 2025, the LDP, which has led Japan for all but four years since 1955, was reeling from back-to-back electoral setbacks and internal scandals. The party had just lost its majority in the House of Councillors, the upper house, raising doubts about its ability to govern. Her immediate challenge was to quickly reverse the LDP's declining fortunes and secure a clear mandate for herself. A conservative nationalist closely aligned with the late former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, she advanced a distinctly Trumpian agenda with Japanese characteristics. She pledged to crack down on immigration and stand up to China's military and economic influence in the region. Her government proposed to make it tougher for foreigners to become citizens and also encourage prospective residents to learn Japanese. She withdrew an unpopular fuel tax and promised more tax cuts. Ms. Takaichi stated that Japan could militarily intervene in the event of a Chinese attack on Taiwan, provoking Beijing to impose restrictions on Japanese seafood imports and limits on critical minerals exports to Japan.

While her victory as the first woman Prime Minister is historic, it is shaped by a paradox: the conservative ideology that defines her politics. She has made repeated visits to the controversial Yasukuni shrine. She opposes same-sex marriage, and many supporters have urged her to amend the Constitution to remove the pacifist clauses. Although Ms. Takaichi enjoys warm ties with U.S. President Donald Trump, she also faces pressure from Washington to move towards a more militarised security posture. But if Ms. Takaichi uses the huge mandate to remilitarise Japan and adopt a more muscular foreign policy, she risks placing herself on the wrong side of history. Post-war peace helped Japan rebuild an economy devastated by conflict and dramatically improve living standards. Rather than issuing provocative statements that risk imperilling Japan's economic ties with its largest trading partner, she should return to the country's long-standing position of studied ambiguity over Taiwan and prioritise regional stability. Her focus should be on revitalising the economy and addressing social challenges, including an ageing population, stagnant wages and persistent gender inequality. The supermajority that she now commands offers her an opportunity to move beyond rigid conservatism and pursue a more pragmatic and inclusive agenda rooted in pacifism.

The approaching AI surge, its global consequences

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

If there is a single technology that promises to unravel the present and usher in a new era, the bet would be on Artificial Intelligence (AI). At the very least, AI is set to effect a transformation that is comparable to any previous revolution, not excluding the Industrial Revolution. Impressive Large Language Models (LLMs) are already rolling out faster than one would have imagined possible. Rivalry between the United States and China in this area has become intense and the success of recent Chinese models is having a catalytic effect on the AI industry as a whole. This is, however, only the beginning.

All this has special relevance to a world which Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, described in his address to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos (in January this year), as follows: "... We are in the midst of a rupture, not a transition... great powers have begun using economic integration as weapons, tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited". Mr. Carney did not, however, touch on potentially the greatest disruptor of all, *viz.*, AI, or refer to the baneful/beneficial influence of AI which is already beginning to impact today's world. When he talked of great power rivalry, and that countries in between have a choice, there was no mention of AI and what impact it would have on today's world, and more so in the future.

Face the reality

World leaders must, however, wake up to this new reality, and come to terms with a phenomenon in which Open AI is beginning to consume the world. There is little realisation that the transformation that is taking place is almost certain to turn the world upside down. When Mr. Carney stated that 'we are in the midst of a rupture and not a transition', he did not have in mind – and probably realised even less – that it is the advent of AI, rather than other aspects, that is likely to herald the collapse of the international order as we know it.

Few leaders currently understand the extent of the threat posed by AI to the world as we know it. Some industry leaders such as Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella have pointed out that AI was already being used as tools of diplomacy and state-craft, and that nations require to build resilience and sovereign stacks. AI did figure in discussions at the WEF, but the contents of the debate hardly mirrored the dangers arising from unchecked AI. A great deal of the debate turned on how countries were placed to exploit this new phenomenon, with Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw taking time off to rebut the presumption that India was a secondary AI power. Industry leaders, no doubt, increasingly see AI as a strategic enabler, given that digital transformation is helping to reshape competitiveness across different sectors – from fintech to health care. Additionally, there is some realisation that AI's potential extends to other sectors as well. The judicial fraternity, for one, however, believes that there is a need to be more cautious about the use of AI in court proceedings, and that excessive reliance on AI in court rooms could lead to misjudgment. They point to the dangers of 'hallucinations' which could lead to improper citations and fabricated judgments.

> With AI disrupting global power, warfare and governance, the issue is whether humanity can keep pace with a set of checks and balances in place

Marching ahead across domains

All this, however, is but a precursor to what the real potential and danger posed by AI in the world of tomorrow are. As AI proliferates globally, it is already becoming evident that few technologies have the potential to exert the same degree of influence in terms of enhancing information flows, surveillance capabilities, revolutionising of communications, empowering analytical frameworks and the military-industrial segment. No other area of technology seems to have such a profound impact on existing civilisational networks.

In this sense, AI portends a breaching of certain limits that had existed since the Second World War and the overweening threat posed by technology and its utilisation in different domains. What is noteworthy is that AI operates at granular levels – and that the technology itself is undergoing a phased transition. In its present form, AI is already enabling the replication of speech and language, vision and reasoning, but what is little realised is that it is set to achieve new and dangerous heights of capabilities. This is specially so in regard to military and defence applications, for as AI becomes increasingly militarised, warfare itself is bound to – and is already undergoing – a paradigm shift from man to unmanned platforms, and from dependence on human-controlled systems to autonomous ones, that are capable of making their own decisions.

Even as AI is set to become all pervasive, its transformative impact on warfare, especially in the area of the evolution of weapon systems, is what is most worrisome. AI has made possible the deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles that are capable of autonomous flight. AI-driven cyber weapons and uncrewed ground vehicles equipped with intelligent navigation and targeting capabilities are already a reality. Both represent a paradigm shift in redefining combat, and employing operations across multiple systems without direct human intervention. As of today, AI offers unprecedented opportunities for the enhanced automation of operational decisions in areas of conflict, and of transforming battlefield dynamics.

Already, the portrayal of Ukrainian soldiers wearing night vision goggles, riding 'Quad bikes' to protect the capital city of Kiev, and launching 'jerry-rigged drones' equipped with small explosives, has become the defining image of future conflicts. Ukraine's success in checking and keeping at bay the mighty Russian Army in the first wave of Russia's attacks on Ukraine, employing the latest AI technology, marks the most fundamental change in tactics of warfare since the advent of tanks at the end of the First World War. Ukraine's response has demonstrated the value of 'coming age technology', and how their skilful use could undermine conventional military capabilities. It is the hugely asymmetric impact that AI commands, that is both its strength and its danger portent. Though this is not being openly mentioned or touted, the reality is that it represents a colossal transfer of power from the traditional military to others, who have the capacity to develop and utilise AI devices. The real danger is that AI could very soon eclipse the smartest individuals, and nobody can or will know, when they become autonomous, and totally out of human control.

The dystopian impact of a powerful set of technologies which are not under the control of a human body or entity, and of self-sustaining technology, portrays a doomsday scenario. The beginnings of this are already evident, and are set to escalate enormously to the next levels of the concentration of power. There are unlimited possibilities in the doomsday scenario of autonomous drone swarms unleashing attacks on crowds, killing hundreds, if not, thousands. Both the military and security establishments would seek to equip themselves with such devices in a few years. AI would then be well set to become the greatest force amplifier in history. Its impact could range from wars and accidents, to random terror groups, to counter-revolutionary forces, and the like. The blunt truth is that nobody knows when, if how, AI might overtake or eclipse humans, and become an autonomous force for good or evil.

It is also becoming evident that, apart from the battlefield, AI is now becoming an instrument of immense value in different spheres of human activity including diplomacy and intelligence. In that sense, it is no longer merely a tool. Concerns that technologies such as AI would outpace institutions meant to govern them are real, but the most spectacular demonstration of AI is as yet on the battlefield – as seen across western Europe and West Asia. In both sectors, space, cyber and electronic warfare capacities have been woven together to completely transform the nature of warfare itself.

Need for effective oversight

The *obiter dictum* – given that AI enables rapid data processing and predictive analysis, and also provides opportunities for a variety of options, including crisis response, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution – is that humankind must develop a set of checks and balances to prevent AI from 'running away with the bit in its mouth'. Scientists, political leaders and others must come together to understand the implications of runaway AI technologies and decide how to keep them under control and in a manner that they benefit, rather than become a threat to, humankind.

Fighter push — HAL's experience with private enterprise

Manmohan Bahadur

is a retired Air Vice Marshal and a former Additional Director General of the Centre for Air Power Studies

An air force requires three verticals to operate in synchrony for its operational punch – a weapons inventory more potent than its adversary's, professional personnel to operate those weapon systems, and a dependable supply chain to provide the systems in time and of requisite quality.

The fighter aircraft portfolio of the Indian Air Force is a mix of Russian and western machines, with the indigenous Tejas built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) a new entrant. The repair and overhaul of every fighter jet, irrespective of its origin, is also done by HAL, making the task of India's sole aircraft manufacturer immense. Its order book is overflowing and, with a typical 'government' work culture, its output in terms of timely delivery and quality has been adversely commented on, including by the Comptroller and Auditor General. So, media reports that the development contract for five prototypes of India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) would be awarded to one of three private players (HAL has been left out) – thereby creating a second aircraft manufacturer – should be welcome news except that there are some serious professional issues that need to be thought through while the decision-making is ongoing.

The complexities

Here are six macro points that deserve consideration. First, the three private entities (despite being top industrial players) can be considered start-ups as they have no previous experience in developing a fighter aircraft. The complexities of building a small ship, a helicopter airframe or aerospace parts cannot be compared to the expertise required to make and test a fifth Gen fighter prototype.

Second, taking history as a guide, the HF-24 Marut was designed by HAL's Aircraft Design Bureau and produced on its shop floor. Thus, design, prototype construction, flight testing, upgrades, weapon integration and modifications were all under one roof. HAL did the series production and provided lifetime spares support; projects such as the trainer aircraft HT-2 and HJT-16 were similar. The Tejas is hybrid as a large part of its design is by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)'s Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) while the series production and lifetime support rests with HAL.

> The development of India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft will test private industry's ability to match HAL's institutional knowledge

Singular control

Since HAL and ADA are government agencies, there is an element of singular control by the Ministry of Defence. In the AMCA case, however, with the design agency (ADA) under the government but the executor a private entity, who would have ownership over the project during prototype testing and during production?

Third, HAL has developed the requisite infrastructure, tools, rigs and production facilities over eight decades centred around Bangalore. The IAF has contributed extensively to flight testing, with its test aircrew sharing the workload and personnel moving on deputation. With the IAF's Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment co-located with it, the development phase of all aircraft had concurrent infusion of user inputs.

For Tejas, a full-fledged National Flight Test Centre was established at ADA, with expensive and sophisticated equipment for prototype testing. Many DRDO labs specialising in avionics and electronic warfare are also situated in a 10-kilometre radius of HAL's airfield in Bengaluru. Would the private entity for AMCA put in the huge sums of money required for similar infrastructure at a new place for research and development and the manufacturing centre? The time required can well be imagined.

Fourth, in any aircraft development plan, there are professional differences which get resolved easily when the design and manufacturing agency are the same. In fact, there is close fusion between designers and production engineers, from the design board phase to flight testing, and during production later as upgrades and modifications take place. Even as prototypes begin to fly, the manufacturing ecosystem begins to get established – with tools, jigs and machinery operationalised to start production as soon as the testing phase is completed. This is a norm the world over. It would be a near impossible task for the AMCA private entity to source land, construct hangars and install manufacturing equipment concurrently for a fifth Gen fighter. In fact, would a private player sink in monies when the contract would be for just five prototypes, and there is no assured production deal that is visible?

Fifth, it takes a year to train test aircrew and a few more to make them experienced enough to start testing a futuristic prototype. India has a single test pilots school that can cater to a limited number of trainees. The private entity would require many from the word go.

Finally, the ADA, its National Flight Test Centre and the IAF's testing establishment are all located at HAL airport, Bengaluru. It makes eminent sense that the private entity also sets up office in these campuses and uses the existing airfield infrastructure. AMCA is a national project. Here is a suggestion, no matter how bureaucratically outlandish it sounds. Can some part of HAL's enormous real estate, hangarage and select facilities (including for flight testing) at Bengaluru be co-opted for the private entity? HAL has been built with public money and, with its restructuring study underway, it is only right that an out-of-the-box approach be adopted in this national endeavour.

The issue of location

Which brings us to the location of the production factory. The idea of locating strategic infrastructure close to the border should not be repeated as in the C-295 aircraft factory at Vadodara, Gujarat. Production of the AMCA must be in the hinterland, well connected to, and not far from, India's mecca of aviation – HAL's Bengaluru airfield.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Turmoil in Parliament

It is concerning that the Lower House of Parliament remains in turmoil after the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha cited an excerpt from an unpublished book by a former Chief of Army Staff in his speech. The issue of violent border skirmishes with China, in 2020, does not seem to have gone away and appears to be gaining steam again. The government of the day should come forward to table a factual report on the festering border issue and facilitate detailed deliberations by law-makers which will set the record straight.

The Treasury benches and the Opposition should both realise that the people's forum needs to function in a smooth manner, with discussions on a range of burning issues confronting the country, instead of making the parliamentary system look sorry.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The name of the dairy products manufacturer in Erode, Tamil Nadu, is Milky Mist (Dairy Food Limited), and not Misty Milk, as given in the heading and text of an article, "Lessons about job creation from Misty Milk" (Opinion page, February 10).

Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Rethinking UGC's new equity regulations

Sameer Ahmad Khan
Research scholar at Jamia Millia Islamia

Furqan Qamar
Former professor of management at Jamia Millia Islamia

Last month, the University Grants Commission (UGC) (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, triggered protests by a section of general category students. On January 29, the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the regulations.

These regulations are necessitated by an undeniable reality. Caste-, gender-, and religion-based discrimination in higher education is persistent and has been increasing in recent times. Grievance redressal mechanisms have been notoriously slow, often discretionary, and at times only symbolic, leaving students from marginalised communities to suffer the consequences in silence. Even the most ardent opponents of these new regulations cannot, therefore, deny the necessity of such an intervention. Why then are there protests?

A troubling combination

The opposition to the regulations stems from an apprehension that some members of historically disadvantaged and marginalised sections may exploit the structural flaws in the regulations – such as the vagueness of the definition of discrimination, the composition of the equity committee, and the procedure to be followed to get grievances redressed – to victimise upper castes. This reflects distrust and fear that measures aimed at providing justice to one section could become unjust for others.

Introduced to tackle caste-based discrimination with unprecedented urgency, the regulations insist on swift redressal. They say complaints must be acknowledged immediately, committees convened fast, and inquiries concluded within rigid timelines. This design rests on the assumption that speed and fairness reinforce one another. Yet justice systems across the world suggest otherwise.

Justice that moves quickly but unclearly destroys trust

Quick timelines and central monitoring without clear procedural standards create fear. Institutions worry about regulatory penalties they cannot contest. Faculty and students worry about reputational damage from complaints processed rapidly and unfairly. The combination of speed and procedural vagueness is bound to lead to protests.

Thin process

The new regulations assume that the time taken in exercising due diligence and completing procedural formalities in grievance redressal is tantamount to institutional inertia. They seek to ensure rapid enforcement by threatening higher education institutions with dire consequences. The message is clear. Neutrality is no longer an option. Whether that shift commands legitimacy, however, will depend not on intent alone, but on the architecture of enforcement.

The experience of American universities during the 2010s is instructive. Faced with pressure to act swiftly on campus misconduct, institutions prioritised speed, only to encounter sustained judicial pushback over vague evidentiary standards, unclear rights of response, and reputational harm inflicted before findings were established. The backlash arose because the process was thin.

Clearly, justice that moves quickly but unclearly destroys trust. That risk is magnified by how the UGC regulations distribute authority. They do not specify offences or penalties. Investigation is delegated to internal equity committees, and punishment is imposed through existing institutional service or disciplinary rules. The UGC itself does not adjudicate individual guilt; it penalises institutions for non-compliance. This creates a powerful incentive structure. Faced with the threat of de-recognition or funding withdrawal, universities are encouraged to prioritise visible action over careful adjudication. In this system, ambiguity creates fear, which rarely fosters justice.

In a complaint-driven enforcement model, the consequences could be even more harmful. The ability to document harm, express it in institutional language, and navigate committees is unevenly distributed: while rural students and linguistic minorities often struggle to translate daily discrimination into administratively legible complaints, those with greater cultural and institutional exposure are better positioned to mobilise the system. As a result, a regime designed to amplify marginal voices ends up privileging the institutionally fluent among them.

Compliance theatre

These pressures inevitably spill into classrooms and supervisory relationships. Universities operate through constant grading, feedback, and assessment, all of which are inherently subjective. When academic judgment is subjected to regulatory scrutiny without procedural clarity, risk aversion becomes the most logical course. Faculty respond by diluting feedback, avoiding difficult conversations, and sanitising evaluation.

Over time, institutions learn ways to bypass the complexities. Committees multiply, documentation thickens, and compliance becomes performative. Governance scholars describe this as compliance theatre, a phenomenon where organisations learn to demonstrate reform without addressing underlying hierarchies. India's higher education system is uneven across regions and institutions and is vulnerable to this drift.

Justice in universities must not be a race to the first response. It should be a long, difficult conversation. One that demands urgency, yes, but also precision, patience, and the humility to revise.

A tug of war over claiming credit

Both the YSRCP and TDP are eager to stake their claim to development projects

STATE OF PLAY

Hareesh P.
hareesh.p@thehindu.co.in

For a while, allegations of 'vote chori' – the deletion or removal of names from electoral rolls – by the BJP-led Central government and the Election Commission of India dominated the national political discourse. As that rhetoric subsided, a similar narrative began gaining prominence in Andhra Pradesh, with the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) accusing the current government of 'credit chori', or of taking credit for projects and policies laid down during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure.

During the 2024 Assembly elections, the TDP campaigned hard on infrastructure and investment, claiming that Mr. Reddy's five-year rule had neglected both. Post-election, the new 'double-engine' government went on to showcase Andhra Pradesh as a major hub for investment, highlighting the State's improved infrastructure.

In October 2025, Google announced plans to build a massive one-gigawatt AI data centre campus in Visakhapatnam. The project – Google's largest AI hub outside the U.S. – will cost nearly $15 billion over five years, ending in 2030. The TDP, led by Information Technology Minister Nara Lokesh, credited the investor-friendly, proactive approach and ease-of-doing-business policies of the Naidu government.

But the YSRCP was not ready to let the narrative slip away. It pointed to the groundwork it laid between 2019 and 2024 – including allotting land to companies such as the Adani Group and providing bureaucratic clearances. It argued that the TDP's claim was an instance of 'credit chori.'

For the YSRCP, claiming the Google deal appears to be less about pride and more about damage control. Under constant attack from the NDA for its policies, such as mandating 75% job reservation for locals, which drew widespread criticism nationally, the party is clearly keen to avoid conceding full credit to the NDA.

The YSRCP also came under attack for failing to develop infrastructure in the State. Pothole-ridden roads became a major poll plank for the NDA. When the first test flight landed at the Alluri Sitharama Raju Greenfield International Airport at Bhogapuram on January 4, both sides once again engaged in a credit war.

It 2019, it was during the TDP government's tenure that the foundation stone for the airport was laid. However, just months later, Mr. Reddy assumed office as Chief Minister. The YSRCP claims this marked a turning point. It asserts that the project gained momentum after the foundation stone was re-laid by Mr. Reddy in 2023. According to the party, land acquisition and key clearances were completed during Mr. Reddy's five-year tenure, paving the way for completion of the airport.

The TDP, however, maintains that the project was conceptualised and initiated during its tenure and that the remaining processes were carried forward. It points out that TDP MP Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu holds the Civil Aviation portfolio in the NDA government at the Centre.

Even farmer-focused initiatives are caught in the narrative battle. Mr. Reddy claimed that the comprehensive land resurvey conducted during his tenure enabled the issuance of the new pattadar passbooks to farmers. But the TDP criticised the YSRCP-issued passbooks for showing Mr. Reddy's photo. Calling it unacceptable, it replaced these with passbooks displaying the State emblem. The TDP asserts that the new passbooks are also error-free – a result of reforms in the revenue system.

What prompted Mr. Reddy to push for the inclusion of his name in the completion of the airport project and the finalisation of the Google data centre deal? It is that the TDP has long accused him of failing to advance projects initiated by the previous TDP government – unlike his father, former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and the subsequent Chief Ministers of united Andhra. Mr. Reddy also stalled the Amaravati capital project and slowed the Polavaram Irrigation Project.

The YSRCP aims to shake off the image of having hindered development. It also wants to claim credit for completing two major projects that could transform the State – particularly north coastal Andhra, where the party had performed poorly in the 2024 elections.

While both the YSRCP and TDP are eager to stake their claim to these projects, the timelines provide a clearer indication of who deserves the credit. Ultimately, it will be up to the electorate to decide.

Why Canada can't leverage oil like China did rare earths

In its escalating tensions with the U.S., Canada will find it difficult to mimic China, whose dominance over rare earths gave it leverage during the tariff war

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to stop the opening of the new bridge, costing $4.6 billion and connecting Windsor in Canada and Detroit in the U.S., until his country was "compensated" by Canada "for everything we have given them". This is the latest in a series of threats that Mr. Trump has issued against Canada. In January, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney negotiated a deal with China to lower tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles in return for lower import taxes on Canadian farm products. In response, Mr. Trump threatened a 100% tariff on all Canadian imports.

In fact, Mr. Trump began his second term by making claims on Canada as the 51st State of the U.S. So, the current situation is not a sudden shift in the relationship, but a severe escalation of a strategy that began last year.

It was in this fraught climate that Mr. Carney took a stand against Mr. Trump in Davos. "The rules-based order is fading. That the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must," he said. "The middle powers must act together because if we're not at the table, we're on the menu." The question is, can Mr. Carney walk the talk? Does he have strong bargaining chips like China had when the U.S. tried a similar tactic against the country?

When the U.S. waged a tariff war on China, the latter leveraged its dominance over 'rare earths', a critical component in clean energy technologies. It introduced measures that required the Chinese government's approval to export items that contained rare earths. In fact, the U.S. is the second-largest importer of Chinese rare earths, with about 22% of China's exports going to the U.S. in 2024. More importantly, about 35% of U.S.'s rare earth imports came from China **(Chart 1A and 1B).** Given this high dependency, China used the commodity as a bargaining chip.

Does Canada have a similar bargaining chip? In theory, it does. It is the U.S.'s largest foreign supplier of energy products such as crude oil. Data show that about 60% of the U.S.'s crude oil imports came from Canada in 2024. However, how practical is it for Canada to use this "leverage" to bargain?

Canada has been pumping almost all of its crude oil to the U.S., with 95% of all crude exports in 2024 going to its neighbour **(Chart 2A and 2B).** So, even if it plans to reduce oil shipments to the U.S., it needs to negotiate fresh deals, like the one Ottawa is trying to strike with New Delhi. Notably, in parallel, Trump has claimed that India will be purchasing oil from Venezuela instead of Iran.

But even if Canada manages to secure deals to diversify away from the U.S., finding newer markets is not the only hindrance. The way Canada's oil pipeline is built demands a forced collaboration with the U.S. About 95% of the oil is produced in Canada's western provinces **(Chart 3A)**. Meanwhile, a large chunk of its population resides in its eastern provinces **(Chart 3B).** In order for the oil to be transported from the west to the east, it must be transported through pipelines which pass through the U.S., because of geographical hurdles. So Canada's oil network is intertwined with the U.S.'s energy infrastructure.

The other bargaining chip could be to threaten stopping exports to the U.S.'s northern States. The States that share borders with Canada are especially heavily dependent on Canada for imports; 90% of Montana's imports and 70% of Maine's in 2024 were from the northern neighbour **(Map 4)**.

However, the volume of imports by these States is too small compared to overall U.S. imports to have a significant impact.

An American spat

The data were sourced from the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database, the Canada Energy Regulator, the International Trade Administration and Statistics Canada

CHART 1A & 1B: China's share in the U.S.'s rare earth imports and the U.S.'s share in China's rare earth exports

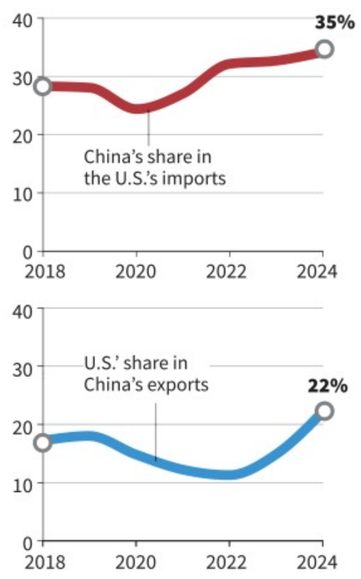


CHART 2A & B: The U.S.'s share in Canada's crude oil exports and Canada's share in the U.S.'s oil imports

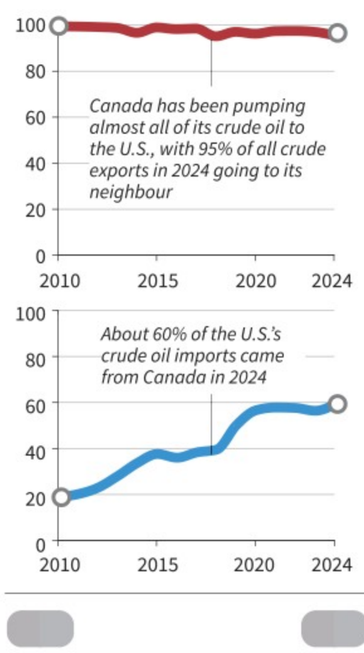
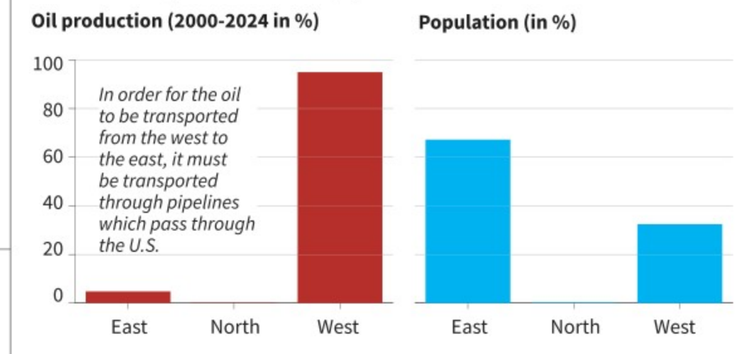
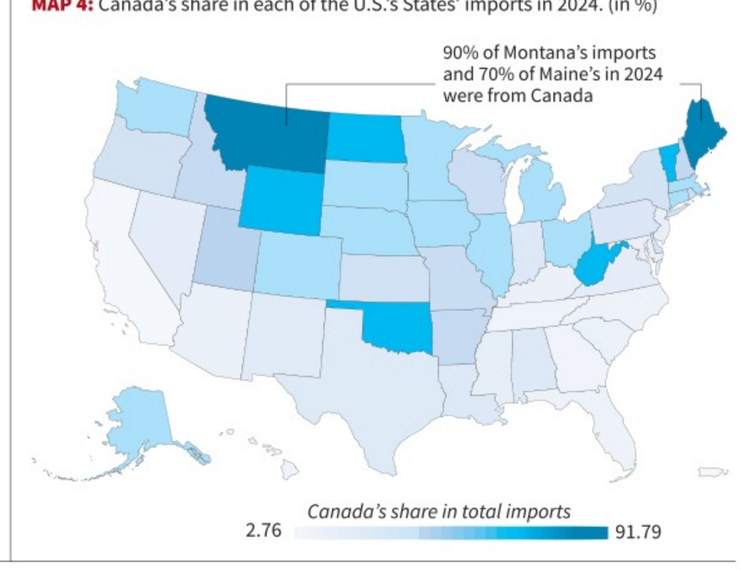


CHART 3A & B: Canada's region-wise share of oil production between 2000 and 2024 and region-wise share of population in 2025



MAP 4: Canada's share in each of the U.S.'s States' imports in 2024. (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 11, 1976

Welcome to Australian tourists

Madras, Feb 10: "Madras is a colourful city, though we find a lot of poverty around". This was the comment made by some of the Australian tourists who had come here aboard the P and O luxury liner, Oriana, touching Madras for the first time on its Indian Ocean cruise. They were part of the 1,500 Australians, young and old, who made the best use of the ten-hour halt in the city, sight-seeing, shopping or walking along the beach. About 300 of them made a dash to Mahabalipuram to see the shore temple and other monuments.

Quite a few visited the restaurants. A couple of crew members, who had eaten biryani at a restaurant, said it was good, but they missed the 'chappathi' and 'pappadam' that were served along with this dish in restaurants in England. "We have 'pappadam' aboard the ship", they said. The affluent Australians were free with their money and one of them had paid Rs. 60 to a porter.

The visitors were given a traditional welcome with Nadaswaram music by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department and the Tourism Development Corporation when the ship berthed in the port in the morning. A caparisoned elephant garlanded the Captain of the ship. The State police played the band much to the enjoyment of the tourists who started dancing. Mr. C. Ramachandran, Managing Director, TNTDC, received the Captain Mr. S.F. Wacher, and the Deputy Captain, Mr. Peter Love.

The Government of India Tourist Office had also made special arrangements for the city tour of the visitors.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 11, 1926

The Colour Bar Bill

Bombay, Feb. 10: The Imperial Citizenship Association has telegraphed to the Viceroy, stating that the passing of the Colour Bar Bill by the South African Assembly provides an appropriate occasion for the exercise of the power of veto vested in His Majesty, and beseeching His Excellency to urge His Majesty's Government to take the necessary steps to prevent thereby a catastrophe, dangerous alike to the Indians in South Africa and to the integrity of the Empire.

From Page One

Label photorealistic AI content, says Centre

Platforms will be required to seek disclosures from users in case their content is AI-generated. If such a disclosure is not received for synthetically generated content, the official said, firms would either have to proactively label the content or take it down in cases of non-consensual deepfakes.

The amended rules mandate that AI-generated imagery be labelled "prominently". While the draft version specified that 10% of any imagery would have to be covered with such a disclosure, platforms have been given some more leeway, the official said, since they pushed back on such a specific mandate.

Safe harbour

"Provided that where [a social media] intermediary becomes aware, or it is otherwise established, that the intermediary knowingly permitted, promoted, or failed to act upon such synthetically generated information in contravention of these rules, such intermediary shall be deemed to have failed to exercise due diligence under this sub-rule," the rules say, hinting at a loss of safe harbour.

The rules also partially roll back an amendment notified in October 2025, which had limited each State to designating a single officer authorised to issue takedown orders. States may now notify more than one such officer– an "administrative" measure to address the need of States with large populations, the official said.

SC to hear plea against Assam CM's hate speech

The petition by the CPI(M) sought the registration of an FIR into instances of alleged communal speeches attributed to Mr. Sarma and a recent social media post, since deleted, depicting him discharging a firearm toward an animated image of two visibly Muslim men positioned within the crosshairs of the weapon, accompanied by textual phrases like 'point-blank shot' and 'no mercy'.

Chief Justice Kant agreed to give a date for hearing to advocate Nizam Pasha, who made the oral mentioning of the petition for an early date.

"Since assuming office, Respondent No. 4 (Sarma) has, on numerous occasions, delivered public speeches and made statements – both within and beyond the territorial limits of the State – which have been widely disseminated across print, electronic, and digital media platforms. These statements, viewed cumulatively, constitute ex facie hate speech inasmuch as they degrade and demean a minority, propagate false and stigmatising stereotypes, incite social and economic boycott, and encourage conditions of exclusion and violence against the community," the petition stated.

The social media post, circulated in the public domain as a video, on February 7, 2026 from the "official handle of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Assam on X..., has been the most blatant and disturbing manifestation of the pattern complained of", the petition said.

"The final frames in the sequence culminate in a stylised portrait of Respondent No. 4 depicted in cowboy attire, accompanied by additional textual slogans translating to 'Foreigner-free Assam', 'Community, land, roots first', 'Why did you go to Pakistan', and 'No forgiveness for Bangladeshis'. When viewed in its surrounding factual and political context, the cumulative symbolic and visual rhetoric embodied in the material serves to reinforce and amplify a climate of hostility, exclusion, and intimidation directed against the minority community," the petition said.

The petition reminded that national deliberations had been undertaken to combat communalism, regionalism, and divisive tendencies, and on the strength of the recommendations of the National Integration Conference, the Constitution (Sixteenth Amendment) Act, 1963 was enacted.

MNS officers to be eligible for re-employment benefits

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Union Government has notified the Ex-servicemen (Re-employment in Central Civil Services & Posts) Amendment Rules, 2026 under Article 309 of the Constitution, formally expanding the definition of ex-servicemen to include personnel of the Military Nursing Service (MNS).

According to the Ministry of Defence, the amendment revises Rule 2(c)(i) to explicitly cover those who have served in any rank – combatant or non-combatant – in the Regular Army, Navy or Air Force, as well as the Military Nursing Service of the Indian Union. The change removes a long-standing ambiguity over the eligibility of MNS officers, who are commissioned officers, for re-employment benefits available to other veterans.

MNS personnel are now entitled to the same re-employment provisions as other ex-servicemen.

Internet curbs imposed as violence continues in Ukhrul

Internet services suspended for five days in the district in Manipur amid reports of armed groups opening fire; Chief Minister appeals for peace while legislators led by Deputy CM visit Litan area

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Internet services were suspended in the Naga-majority Ukhrul district of Manipur for five days as violence between the Kuki-Zo and Naga tribal groups continued for the third consecutive day on Tuesday.

Local people said miscreants torched nine or 10 houses on Tuesday morning, escalating the tension between Kuki-Zo and Naga villagers in the Litan area, located midway between Imphal and Ukhrul.

There were reports of armed miscreants opening fire, presumably to scare villagers away.

Many villagers in the conflict zone have abandoned their houses for safer places, according to officials.

N. Ashok Kumar, Manipur's Home Commissioner-cum-Secretary, issued an order suspending "Internet/data services, including services through broadband, VPN, and VSAT" in Ukhrul district for five days from 11.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Security forces deployed following a clash between the Tangkhul and Kuki communities in the Litan area in Ukhrul on Tuesday. ANI

This was a preventive and precautionary measure given the volatile law and order situation and "apprehension that some anti-social elements might misuse social media with images, posts, and videos to incite passion", the order said.

The violence, triggered by an assault on Saturday night, continued despite the enforcement of prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the deployment of several companies of Central armed forces.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh appealed to the two communities to maintain peace and harmony, while a team of legislators led by Deputy Chief Minister Losii Dikho visited the Litan area to assess the situation. The team also held meetings with the leaders of the two communities, calling for restraint.

"The situation is under control along the main roads, but the interior areas, difficult to access, remain tense," a district official said, declining to be named.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust appealed to both Tangkhul and Kuki communities to exercise restraint and maintain peace.

Himanta files ₹500-crore suit against 3 Cong. leaders

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The war of words between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress in Assam has reached the court and police station ahead of the Assembly election, likely by April.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma filed a ₹500-crore defamation suit against three Congress leaders, including Jorhat MP Gaurav Gogoi. Around the same time that he announced this on social media platforms, Congress MLAs Sibamoni Bora and Diganta Barman lodged a police complaint against him over a controversial AI-generated video.

"Today, I have filed a defamation case seeking ₹500 crore in damages against Congress leaders Jitendra Singh, Bhupesh Baghel, and Gaurav Gogoi for making false, malicious, and defamatory allegations against me through a press conference," Mr. Sarma posted on X.

Centre sidesteps query on Agniveers' career progression

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday evaded a response to a pointed question from Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha on why it –and not the Ministry of Defence – has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating the career progression of Agniveers, despite their service in the armed forces.

Rahul Gandhi

Mr. Gandhi sought to know whether the Home Ministry had been tasked with coordinating the post-service career progression of Agniveers, and whether the government had assessed possible overlap or coordination challenges between the Home and Defence Ministries in managing the transition of ex-Agniveers. He asked for details of the specific activities and programmes that the Home Ministry would oversee for them.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said, "The distribution of subjects among Ministries/ Departments has been specified in the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961. As per the amendment issued by the Cabinet Secretariat notification No.S.O.2701(E) dated 16.06.2025, the subject of 'coordinating activities for further progress of Ex-Agniveers' is allocated to the MHA."

The reply added, "A dedicated ex-Agniveer wing and an ex-Agniveer cell have been created within the MHA for smooth coordination, monitoring, and formulation of rehabilitation policies for ex-Agniveers."

The Agnipath Scheme was launched on June 14, 2022, to recruit soldiers, airmen and sailors into the three services for a four-year tenure.

Special revision: Assam voter count decreases by 2.43 lakh in final poll roll

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The voter count in Assam has dropped by 2.43 lakh after the conclusion of the special revision of electoral rolls, data released by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has revealed.

A total of 29,646 booth-level officers were engaged across Assam for the special revision, which differed from the special intensive revision (SIR) conducted simultaneously in 12 other States and Union Territories.

The final electoral roll was published on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by the CEO's office, the total number of voters decreased by 2,43,485 from 2,52,01,624 published in the integrated draft voter list on December 27, 2025, to 2,49,58,139 in the final list. "This represents a 0.97% decrease compared to the draft voter list," the statement read. The draft list had 1.35% more voters than the previous final roll published in January 2025.

As many as 7.87 lakh additions and 10.26 lakh deletions were recorded during the special revision of electoral rolls in Assam. ANI

Poll officials said 7.87 lakh additions and 10.26 lakh deletions were recorded during the special revision from November 22 to December 27, 2025. The deletions were attributed to deceased electors (4.79 lakh), shifted electors (5.24 lakh), and multiple entries (53,619).

The final voter list includes 1,24,82,213 male voters, 1,24,75,583 female voters, and 343 third-gender voters.

30-day appeal window

The statement further said a 30-day appeal window has been provided for electors or applicants who have grievances. The appeal can be made to the District Magistrate within 15 days of the publication of the final voter list, with a "second appeal available to the CEO within 30 days".

The period for submitting claims and objections after the publication of the draft roll was from December 27, 2025, to January 22, 2026.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that an "extensive" SIR of the State's electoral rolls will take place after the Assembly election, likely by April.

SC tells EC to consider inputs to curb poll spending

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission (EC) to consider suggestions made in a writ petition to frame a standard operating procedure to trim election expenditure.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the suggestions made by petitioner Prabhakar Deshpande were "worth consideration".

Mr. Deshpande, an IIT graduate, had sought directions for the poll panel to formulate a plan of action against erring candidates and to re-examine the cap on election expenses to ensure democratic credibility.

EC defends regulations

While the EC defended its existing oversight mechanisms, including the deployment of independent expenditure observers from the All India Services, the Bench noted that the petitioner's grievances regarding the effectiveness of these measures were filed in the larger public interest.

Gym trainer gets wave of support after news of decline in membership

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Help has poured in for Deepak Kumar, now popularly known as Mohammed Deepak, after news of a sharp decline in membership at his gym went viral following a Republic Day incident in Kotdwar, Uttarakhand. Social media was abuzz with users from across the country showing interest in becoming a member of the gym.

Mr. Deepak came into the national spotlight after he confronted a mob of right-wing members accused of harassing a 71-year-old Muslim garment seller and pressuring him to change the name of his shop.

Deepak Kumar

The episode unfolded on Republic Day, when Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal members objected to the name of a four decades-old garment store, Baba School Dress and Matching Centre, run by Wakeel Ahmed and insisted it be renamed identifying the owner's religion. As the situation outside the shop grew tense, Mr. Kumar intervened. Footage of the incident later circulated widely online, with particular attention on a clip in which he introduced himself by saying, "*Mera naam Mohammed Deepak* (My name is Mohammad Deepak)."

Testing his resolve

Since then, Mr. Kumar has been facing protests, online and offline harassment and an FIR lodged by the police. His wife and daughter have also fallen ill after witnessing the chaos around them.

Above all, Mr. Kumar's long-running gym, Hulk, situated in the Jhanda Chauk area in Kotdwar, previously had around 150 members. The membership has declined to 15-20 now, said Deepak Singh, a trainer at the gym and owner's namesake.

Recalling how the gym, which had once been alive with sweat-drenched men occupying the floors, he said the place was now covered in darkness most of the time as many people had stopped coming.

"Police keep sitting outside the gym all the time. The members are fearful that if something will happen some day, they all will be in trouble," Mr. Kumar said.

Despite the decline in footfall, Mr. Kumar still arrives here before sunrise, wiping down machines, adjusting mirrors, believing in the space he had built with his own hands, will once again see people working out and chasing their dreams.

Human rights body could function as RTI panel, moots SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday mooted whether the Chairpersons of Human Rights Commissions of States with low traffic of Right to Information (RTI) appeals could be given additional responsibility of acting as Chief Information Commissioners (CICs) till there is an increase in workload.

"Suppose it is just 100 appeals pending in a State Information Commission... Any institution you create is a burden on the public exchequer. Taxpayers' money must be spent on development activities or something... Why not in such States, as an ad-hoc mechanism, the power of the Information Commissions be given to the State Human Rights Commissions?" Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, asked advocates Prashant Bhushan and Rahul Gupta for the petitioners.

The court was hearing a petition filed by petitioners Anjali Bhardwaj, Commodore Lokesh Batra (retired) and Amrita Johri, seeking timely and transparent appointments to the Information Commissions under the RTI Act.

The Chief Justice said the "ad-hoc mechanism" could continue till the number of RTI appeals increases in "due course of time".

ED summons Anil Ambani, wife again

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued fresh summonses to the chairman of the Reliance Group Anil Ambani and his wife Tina Ambani for recording their statements in connection with an alleged money laundering case, according to sources in the agency.

The agency had asked Ms. Ambani to join the investigation on Monday. However, she did not turn up. The ED has now summoned her on February 17, and Mr. Anil Ambani on the following day.

The ED has alleged fraudulent diversion of public money by Reliance Group.

APPEAL

Sarvesh is one year baby suffering from "B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia". He needs to undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai**.The total expenditure is **Rs.8,00,000/-**. His father is a sales person and their family cannot afford this huge expenditure. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

General backs publisher's statement on his memoir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amidst a controversy over his book *Four Stars of Destiny*, former Army chief General M.M. Naravane (retd.) on Tuesday backed Penguin Random House India's (PRHI) contention that the book has not been published so far.

In its statement, PRHI said it held the sole publishing rights to the book.

"No copies of the book either in print or digital form have been published, distributed, sold, or otherwise made available to the public by Penguin Random House India," it said.

Sharing the statement on social media, Mr. Naravane said, "This is the status of the book."

The statements came after the Delhi Police registered an FIR over the alleged illegal circulation of the unpublished manuscript in digital and other formats.

General Naravane's clarification followed remarks by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who earlier in the day, cited a December 2023 social media post by the former Army chief stating that the book was "available now", to counter the publisher's claim that the memoir had not yet been published.

"The point I am making is either Mr. Naravane is lying – and I believe the former Army chief; I don't think he will lie – or Penguin is lying. Both cannot be telling the truth," the Congress leader had said.

After Mr. Gandhi's remarks, PRHI said an announcement about a book or its availability for pre-order should not be interpreted as publication.

Opposition MPs submit notice seeking removal of LS Speaker

Notice has 120 signatures, including of SP, DMK MPs; it cites Speaker's prevention of Rahul's speech, 'arbitrary suspension' of MPs, 'false allegations' about protest against PM; House allowed to function after submission, discussion on Budget taken up

Sandeep Phukan
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Big move: Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi with floor leaders of the INDIA bloc parties during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Opposition parties belonging to the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on Tuesday submitted a notice to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, seeking the removal of Speaker Om Birla for allegedly conducting the business of the House in a "blatantly partisan" manner.

The notice to bring a resolution for the removal of the Speaker cited four specific reasons, including not allowing Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to complete his speech on the Motion of Thanks to the President on February 2. "This is not an isolated instance. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha is almost invariably not allowed to speak," the notice said.

The notice, with nearly 120 signatures, was submitted to Lok Sabha Secretary-General Utpal Kumar Singh by Congress chief whip K. Suresh and whip Mohamed Jawed on behalf of several Opposition parties, including the Congress, Samajwadi Party, and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). However, the Trinamool Congress did not sign the notice.

Soon after the submission of the notice against the Speaker, the Opposition agreed to let the House function. The discussion on the Budget started in the second half of the day. Mr. Gandhi is likely to take part in the discussions tomorrow.

Mr. Birla has directed the Secretary-General to take appropriate action of "examining and processing" the notice, according to the rules, sources said. At least two Lok Sabha members have to sign the notice to move a resolution for the removal of the Speaker and a minimum of 14 days' notice has to be given before the resolution can be taken up by the House.

Under Article 94C of the Constitution, the Speaker can be removed from office by a resolution passed by the House through a simple majority. Article 96 of the Constitution allows the Speaker to respond to the notice for removal but the charges against her/him will have to be specific.

'Arbitrary suspension'

Apart from Mr. Gandhi's speech, the notice said that on February 3, eight Opposition MPs were "arbitrarily suspended" for the entire Budget session and were "being penalised merely for exercising their democratic rights".

On February 4, a BJP MP was permitted to make "wholly objectionable and personalised attacks" against two former Prime Ministers, without being reprimanded even once for disregarding established conventions and norms of propriety, the notice said, referring to Nishikant Dubey's remarks. "In spite of our request, no action has been taken against this particular MP, who is a habitual offender," it said.

Referring to the Speaker's statement that he had "concrete information" that Congress members might move towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seat and carry out "some unexpected act", the notice termed these remarks "blatantly false allegations" and his decision to make these observations from his Chair as "indicative of an abuse of this constitutional office".

"While we hold the Speaker, Lok Sabha, in personal regard, we are pained and anguished at the manner in which he has consistently prevented opposition members of Parliament from raising issues of legitimate public concern," the notice said.

BJP slams notice

The BJP on Tuesday slammed the Opposition for submitting the notice and said the time has come for India to "impeach" Mr. Gandhi and the Congress from politics.

"Those who have been impeached of their consciousness are the ones who want to impeach all the constitutional posts of India," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra told presspersons.

(With PTI inputs)

Birla to stay away from Lok Sabha proceedings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will not preside over the business of the House until the Opposition's notice for a motion seeking his removal is disposed of, sources said on Tuesday, citing "moral grounds" for the decision.

The Speaker has already directed the Lok Sabha Secretary-General to examine and process the notice as per rules.

Countering the Congress claim that the Speaker's charges against its women MPs were baseless, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju posted video footage from February 4 on X, showing women MPs of the principal Opposition party surrounding the Prime Minister's front row seat in the Lok Sabha.

If the ruling party had not restrained its members, Mr. Rijiju said, there would have been "very ugly scenes". "Congress Party is proud of the most degrading behaviour by their MPs!! If we had not stopped all BJP MPs and allowed the Women MPs to confront Cong. MPs, it would have led to very ugly scene. We have very high consideration, to protect the dignity & sanctity of the Parliament," he said.

Removal of Speaker is last option, need restraint: Trinamool

Abhishek calls for a 'constructive approach'; slams govt. for dysfunction in the Lok Sabha

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress did not join other Opposition parties in signing the resolution seeking the removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. While agreeing with the objective, the party's national general secretary and Lok Sabha leader, Abhishek Banerjee, argued for an alternative path of "restraint" and a "constructive and calibrative" approach.

Though the Trinamool appeared reluctant to resort immediately to the "last option" of moving for the removal of the Speaker, it expressed no such hesitation in pursuing an impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

In the CEC's case, Mr. Banerjee said, all avenues had been "explored and exhausted".

Mr. Banerjee said the party had "no problem signing the no-confidence motion against the Speaker", but insisted on first sending a letter outlining the Opposition's grievances. "Let it be incumbent on the Speaker to act on the four grievances. And if he doesn't act, then we can unitedly move a no-confidence motion," he said.

Minutes after his remarks, Congress leaders submitted the resolution seeking Mr. Birla's removal.

'Conveyed our position'

The party, Mr. Banerjee said, had already conveyed its position to the Congress and other Opposition partners. Asked whether the Congress had jumped the gun by ignoring this suggestion, he replied, "We are more tolerant... otherwise what is the difference between BJP and us?"

Reiterating the party's preference for restraint, he said, "Our approach has always been constructive and calibrated. Instead of trying to flex muscles, we want to give an opportunity to the Chair. If our issues are not addressed in three days, we can always move an impeachment motion"

Functioning of House

He also criticised the Union government, holding it directly responsible for the dysfunction in the Lok Sabha. "We want the House to function properly, but it appears the Union government does not. The House has been adjourned twice, and the Speaker has not come to the House. From 2 p.m. yesterday until 11 a.m. today, the House remained adjourned. If you truly intend to ensure the House functions properly, why would you adjourn it for such a long period?" he asked.

According to sources, the Trinamool believes pressure should be escalated step-by-step rather than taking a maximalist position. They also fault the Congress for making unilateral decisions. This stand-off, one MP said, is proving costly for other members who are unable to secure time to speak in the House.

'One-sided' deal will flood Indian markets with U.S. products, say MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Akhilesh Yadav

The Opposition parties said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the India-U.S. interim trade deal was "one-sided" and would open up the Indian markets to the United States at the cost of farmers.

Participating in a discussion on the Union Budget in the Lok Sabha, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said it was not a "deal" but "*dheel* (concession)". Mr. Yadav said the trade agreement was one-sided and it would hurt the farming community owing to agricultural imports from the U.S.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the trade deal looked more like a "pre-committed purchase agreement" and alleged that Union Ministers S. Jaishankar and Piyush Goyal were playing "ping pong" when questions are posed. Another party MP Karti Chidambaram said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman must clarify from where India can buy crude oil from [owing to the U.S.'s curbs on oil purchase from Russia]. "Will these decisions be taken sovereignly in India or in the White House," he asked.

'Dent prospects'

Mr. Yadav said the India-U.S. interim trade agreement will damage the prospects of the industry and push back the "Made in India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)" initiatives of the government. The SP chief said the deal would flood Indian markets with U.S. agricultural produce and the farmers would have nothing to grow in their fields.

He said the Union Budget was "directionless".

Mr. Tharoor said that at a time when India's total bilateral trade with the U.S. stood at roughly $130 billion and the trade surplus was nearly $45 billion, the government had surprisingly promised to buy $500 billion worth of U.S. goods over five years.

He said the government's claim that India had secured a "better deal" than China, Vietnam, or other Asian economies did not withstand scrutiny as, though India may have obtained tariff reductions of one or two percentage points, no East Asian economy had agreed to deliberately dilute its trade surplus with the U.S. through guaranteed purchase commitments.

Accusing the ruling party of practising "subscription-based federalism", Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee alleged that West Bengal was neglected in the Budget.

Cong. likely to focus on U.S. trade deal during discussion on Budget

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pressure point: Suspended Lok Sabha members during a protest on Parliament premises in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

The Congress is likely to step up pressure against the Narendra Modi government over the India-U.S. trade deal, with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, likely to focus on it when he takes part in the discussion on the Union Budget on Wednesday.

The Lok Sabha, which has been paralysed since February 2, started functioning on Tuesday, after the Opposition submitted a notice to move a resolution against Speaker Om Birla.

Before moving the petition, senior Opposition leaders, including Akhilesh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party; K.C. Venugopal and Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress; Abhishek Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress; and T.R. Baalu of the DMK met Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju to end the stalemate, but were unsuccessful.

The Opposition agreed to allow normal functioning since it wants to raise crucial issues during the Budget discussion. Earlier, Mr. Gandhi pointed to a poster Opposition MPs were carrying during their protest, which read "Narender Surrender". "This has happened" in the Indo-U.S. trade deal, he said.

In a statement posted on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge claimed the trade agreement had sacrificed India's strategic national interests and exposed the betrayal of the Modi government.

"Fine print of the Indo-U.S. trade deal has exposed how PM Modi mortgaged India's national interests," Mr. Kharge alleged, terming it "trapped surrender".

He said the White House fact sheet now listed "India's commitment to stop purchasing Russian Federation oil" as a condition for the removal of an additional 25% tariff, even though the joint statement had not mentioned it. Why had the Centre agreed to such "erosion of sovereignty", Mr. Kharge asked.

He alleged that the Centre had "back-stabbed" farmers by opening agriculture to foreign goods.

Take action against Opposition: BJP MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Several women MPs of the BJP have urged Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to take the "strongest possible" action under the rules against Opposition members who allegedly committed "heinous acts" in the House, and brought democratic institutions to "disrepute" on February 4.

Expressing gratitude to the Lok Sabha Speaker for upholding and protecting the dignity, decorum, and sanctity of the House on February 4, the women MPs, in a letter, said: "On that day, the entire House, and indeed the whole nation, witnessed one of the most unfortunate and regrettable incidents within the Lok Sabha Chamber".

"The prevailing situation had the potential to result in serious and untoward consequences and could have marked one of the darkest moments in the history of our parliamentary democracy," they said.

'Best possible' deal amid shifting global order: Misri

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, held a marathon three-and-a-half-hour meeting on Tuesday to examine the recent trade agreements signed by India with the United States and the European Union, amid mounting political scrutiny over their implications for farmers, energy security and regional trade.

Briefing the panel, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said given the "shifted global paradigm", the trade agreement with the United States represented the best possible outcome India could have secured. He repeatedly assured members that farmers' interests would be protected and would not be compromised under the deal.

Mr. Misri faced sustained questioning on India's continued imports of Russian oil, particularly in the backdrop of recent statements from Washington. He told MPs that the government had chosen not to react to the U.S. executive order issued by President Donald Trump

Vikram Misri

and was instead sticking strictly to the details contained in the trade agreement signed between the two countries.

The remarks came days after Mr. Trump issued an executive order withdrawing punitive 25% tariffs on Indian goods, while claiming that India had already begun scaling back purchases of Russian oil and warning that the tariffs could be reimposed if such imports increase.

According to sources present at the meeting, Mr. Misri did not offer a definitive response on whether India had made any formal commitment to the U.S. on ending Russian oil purchases, reiterating instead that India's decisions would continue to be guided by national interest.

Responding to questions on the U.S. expectation that India will buy $500 billion worth of American goods over the next five years, Mr. Mistry said this was not "binding", and it was only an expression of intent.

On the proposed India-EU trade agreement, the Foreign Secretary did not give a clear timeline yet on when the deal would come into effect, a point that drew concern from several members.

MPs raised questions about U.S. trade concessions to Bangladesh, warning that they could have adverse consequences for Indian cotton farmers.

PM CARES not above scrutiny: CPI(M) MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Contesting the directions from Prime Minister's Office to the Lok Sabha Secretariat that no questions on PM CARES Fund should be admitted, since the fund is entirely made up of voluntary public contributions, CPI(M) MP John Brittas has said such a stance is not legally sustainable.

He urged the Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan to "summarily" reject such directions.

INBRIEF

Death toll in Meghalaya coal mine blast rises to 30

The death toll in the illegal rat-hole coal mine blast in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district on February 5 rose to 30, with three more in hospital, officials said on Tuesday. Raju Tamang, 34, who was undergoing treatment at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences in Shillong, died on Monday night. Two others – Nimaruddin and Ramcharan Baishnab – died at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital in southern Assam's Barak Valley. "We have disbursed ₹24 lakh as compensation to the families of eight victims. The compensation for the other affected families is in process," Meghalaya government said.

French President Macron to undertake key visit to India

French President Emmanuel Macron will undertake a three-day visit to India next week to attend the AI Impact Summit and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to boost ties in key sectors such as trade and defence. Mr. Macron will begin his visit from Mumbai on February 17 where he and Mr. Modi will inaugurate the India-France Year of Innovation. The two leaders are expected to hold bilateral talks in Mumbai. "Both leaders will hold discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas as enshrined in the Horizon 2047 Roadmap," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Mr. Macron will participate in the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on February 19. PTI

Bangladesh plans to shift from Indian to U.S. cotton

Information adviser says 'game changer' trade deal can provide Bangladesh greater access to U.S. market; experts caution it will prevent Dhaka from exploring other cotton producing countries

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Bangladesh will replace Indian cotton with U.S.-produced cotton as a result of the U.S.-Bangladesh trade deal that was inked on Monday, said a spokesperson for the interim government here.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shafiqul Alam, information adviser to chief adviser Muhammad Yunus, said the trade deal was a "game changer" that can provide Bangladesh greater access to the U.S. market.

Professor Selim Jehan of BRAC University in Dhaka said the deal had made Bangladesh's cotton market "attractive" for the U.S. but cautioned that Bangladesh should ensure that the U.S. cotton was of high quality.

"We have got a tariff rate of 19% in the new trade deal with the U.S., which is good compared to our rivals like Cambodia and Indonesia but a clause in the deal has given us greater advantage as the U.S. has agreed to reduce tariff to zero if our textile producers switch to U.S. cotton or manmade fibre," said Mr. Alam, describing the trade deal as a "big boost" for Bangladesh's textile sector.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Bangladesh's adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin signing the trade deal. @USTradeRep/X

Mr. Alam said that Bangladesh traditionally imports cotton from India and Central Asia as it does not produce the cotton or yarns necessary for its large textile sector.

However, this shortcoming has also helped it negotiate with the U.S. more freely as Bangladesh does not have any cotton farmer lobby that could have pressured the government.

Tit-for-tat restrictions

Cotton and cotton yarn supplies from India and export of Bangladesh's textile products to India came to the spotlight in April-May 2025 when both sides imposed tit-for-tat restrictions on the movement of the items.

Bangladesh restricted import of yarn from India through its land ports through an order dated April 13, 2025.

India exported to Bangladesh cotton yarn worth $1.6 billion in 2024 and manmade fibre (MMF) yarn worth nearly $85 million.

A substantial volume of yarn goes through land ports. Bangladesh is one of the largest importers of Indian cotton.

After relations between the two countries nosedived in July-August 2024, on May 16, 2025, India imposed curbs on import through land ports of several items which included readymade garments, the largest export item from Bangladesh to India. Bangladeshi authorities have said that they will now shift focus to the market in the U.S., which is the largest textile market for Bangladeshi manufacturers.

Professor Selim Jehan acknowledged that the trade agreement had "undoubtedly" created a market in Bangladesh for raw cotton from the U.S., but also cautioned that the agreement had "restricted Bangladesh as it will prevent Bangladesh from exploring rival cotton producing countries".

"It appears at first that if Bangladesh produces textile products using raw cotton from the U.S., then Bangladesh will save money as the 19 per cent tariff will be reduced to zero. But then, we also have to combine the amount to purchase U.S. cotton with freight charges, transportation etc. to see if ultimately it amounts to a profitable bargain," Professor Jehan told *The Hindu*.

He further said that Bangladesh will have to ensure that the U.S.-supplied cotton matches the cotton from other countries, including India and Egypt.

EXPORTERS PERTURBED
» BUSINESS PAGE

Retired IPS officer is Home Ministry's new Northeast Adviser

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Ajit Lal will head Naga talks and pursue dialogue with Kuki Zo and Meitei groups in Manipur

Ajit Lal, a 1974-batch retired Indian Police Service officer and former Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), has been appointed the Northeast Adviser to the Union Home Ministry, a senior government official told *The Hindu*. In 2014, he was succeeded as JIC chief by R.N. Ravi, now the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Lal, 73, was appointed JIC chief under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in 2011 for a period of three years which ended in July 2014. After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in May 2014, the Home Ministry, under then-Home Minister Rajnath Singh, recommended Mr. Lal's name as the interlocutor for the Naga peace talks. The NSCS, which reports to the National Security Adviser under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), however, overruled the Home Ministry's recommendation and instead appointed Mr. Ravi as the interlocutor. He continued in the position till September 2021, when he was appointed Tamil Nadu Governor.

In his new role, Mr. Lal will not only lead the Naga peace talks but also continue the dialogue with the Kuki-Zo and Meitei insurgent groups in Manipur.

He replaces A.K Mishra, a retired IPS officer and former Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), who was appointed the Northeast adviser in 2021.

Mr. Lal, who belonged to the Himachal Pradesh cadre, also served as an IB Special Director from 2008 to 2011. He is an old hand at the Naga political talks, having led the peace talks from March to July 2014.

On February 5, Mr. Lal and Mr. Mishra were both present at the signing of the tripartite agreement for the creation of Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) between Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO), the Nagaland government, and the Home Ministry. Mr. Lal's appointment comes at a crucial time when President's Rule has been revoked in Manipur and a new Chief Minister has been installed.

EC extends Bengal SIR deadline after court order

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Election Commission on Tuesday extended the deadline for hearing of notices under the special intensive revision in West Bengal to February 14. The final electoral roll will be published on February 28, instead of February 14.

This came after the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal sent a formal request to the EC for an extension, citing pending work.

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the EC to extend the SIR deadline by at least a week. "Since the process of scrutinising documents is likely to take longer than anticipated, we direct that at least one week beyond 14.02.2026 be granted to the EROs/AEROs," the court order said.

Netflix tells HC that controversial title of film will be changed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Netflix informed the court that it had removed all promotional material for the film

Netflix India on Tuesday informed the Delhi High Court that the Manoj Bajpayee-starrer *Ghooskhor Pandat* will be renamed. The court was dealing with a petition seeking a stay on the release of the film on account of its "offensive" and "defamatory" title.

"The producer has taken a conscious decision in light of the concern that has arisen to change the title of the film from *'Ghooskhor Pandat'* to an alternative title which more accurately reflects the film's narrative and intent," the court recorded in the order.

Netflix's senior counsel said the film, which is in the editing stage, is a fictional police drama, and the title led to "unintended interruptions" which did not align with the film's content.

The court was informed that all promotional material had been taken down.

In view of the stand taken by Netflix, the court closed the proceedings on the petition, observing that "nothing more was required to be adjudicated".

Petitioner Mahender Chaturvedi, an acharya by vocation, claimed that the "malicious" association of "pandat" with corruption and bribery was an attack on the reputation and dignity of his community. He sought a stay on the release and streaming of the film.

Row over UGC equity regulations gives BJP, Mayawati much to ponder in Uttar Pradesh

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

A casual observer of statements coming out of Uttar Pradesh cannot be blamed for assuming, for a minute, that he or she may have stepped back into the early 2000s.

On one side, you have Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Mayawati endorsing the Supreme Court's stay on the UGC regulations on equity, saying that the rules would stoke social tension, reflecting general category anxieties. On the other side, former Union Minister Kalraj Mishra, who served as Governor of Rajasthan till 2024, has reemerged to address the UGC issue.

With regard to Ms. Mayawati, her statements, first on the UGC regulations on equity and later on the film title *Ghooskhor Pandat* (corrupt pandat) are reminiscent of her "*sarv samaj*" push of the mid-2000s, when she secured an absolute majority in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. This is being seen as a bid to go back to a playbook that had worked for her in the past, where she went from being a Bahujan Samaj (Dalit) leader to a *Sarv Samaj* leader (a leader of all communities). This follows years of growing political marginalisation, often accompanied by legal stresses, and the emergence of the BJP as the dominant party in Uttar Pradesh, with its salami slicing of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) vote, targeting non-Yadav OBCs, and the Dalit support base through non-Jatav votes.

Protesters raise slogans against the UGC equity norms in Lucknow on January 29. SANDEEP SAXENA

This marginalisation has grown to such an extent that, come November 2026, the BSP's lone MP, Rajya Sabha member Ramji Gautam's retirement will mean that the party will have no presence in either House of parliament. The reasons for this decline, apart from those mentioned above, are many, but what is significant is what is revealed by Ms Mayawati's attempts to go back to her "*sarv samaj*" stance.

It says more about the BJP and its internal dynamics in the run-up to the Assembly polls in 2027 than the BSP. The UGC regulations on equity raised the hackles of the general category communities, which have been the core support base of the BJP for many years now.

Within that category, Brahmins, who constitute 10%-12% of the electorate, are particularly aggrieved with the Yogi Adityanath government due to the perception that the Chief Minister's caste identity as a Thakur is affecting state patronage.

A dinner party of Brahmin legislators in December last year brought these long-held anxieties of the Brahmin community to the fore. The UGC regulations were considered the last straw, leading to strong protests by general category students over the matter.

At this point, Mr. Mishra, considered to have retired from active political life, entered the fray and gave words to the voices within the BJP and the larger Brahmin community regarding the regulations.

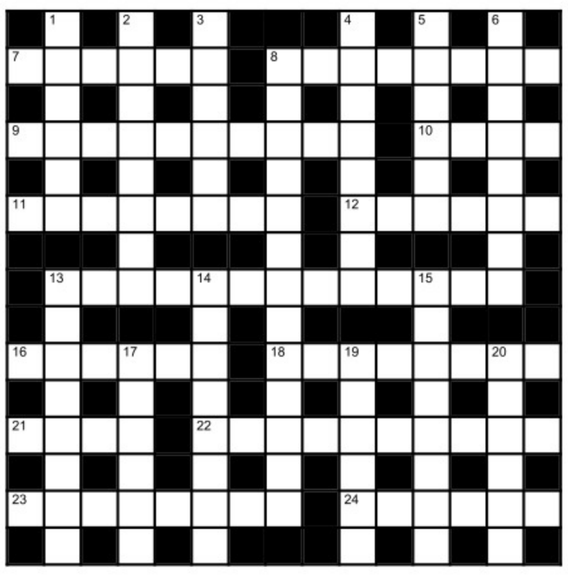
His surprise appearance pointed to two things: first, that there was a serious issue with regard to the UGC regulations within the BJP itself, and second, that the party's cupboard was bare when it came to Brahmin leadership.

TH CROSSWORD + 14714

(set by Saral)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Fantastic blue and silver back whale (6)
8 Preserve excellent books penned by principal (8)
9 Station master near subway counter for final examination (4-6)
10 Request from people accepted (4)
11 Spanish journalist to get a round of coffee (8)
12 Two pieces of thin taro damaged windpipe (6)
13 Method of designing old pure diamonds (5,8)
16 Scientist in pressure with a measuring system mainly (6)
18 Petitioner in court protecting wild animal (8)
21 Advertisement is abrupt and dull (4)
22 Gauge mood controlling expression of pain mostly from the heart (10)
23 Killing hundred soldiers after Indian state is upset (8)
24 Call again engineers to help rolling line (6)

Down

1 That woman with son training birds (6)
2 Assembled plant reportedly (8)
3 Noted a tailless rodent behind fellow (6)
4 Spread a meal primarily consumed by weight watcher (8)
5 State of shock from bombing US port (6)
6 Some elite, rational intellectuals (8)
8 Point out crime playing in movie (6,7)
13 Cooking at first fresh oatmeal dish (4,4)
14 Spooner says "Stop sibling in biannual event" (8)
15 Worm in bump around oriental carpet (8)
17 Body right inside bush (6)
19 Follow a daughter with that man again (6)
20 Assassins? Yes in Germany chasing Indian often with son (6)

SUDOKU

9	6				5		4	1
		2		4				
			6	8			9	7
7	1						2	
	2						3	6
1	3			6	7			
				9		5		
6	9		3				7	4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6788 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

H	O	W	Z	A	T		A	D	H	E	R	E	N	T
O		R		D				E		X		R		O
T	W	E	L	V	E		E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
S		S		E		S		I		L		D		A
E	N	T	I	R	E	T	Y		T	O	N	I	C	S
A				B		I		L		I		C		T
T	H	I	N		I	N	F	I	L	T	R	A	T	E
			N		A		G		A		S		T	
R	O	T	I	S	S	E	R	I	E		G	E	R	M
E		E		L		R		S		G				A
T	E	R	R	O	R		N	O	T	A	T	A	L	L
S		S		N		R		N		L		R		I
I	D	E	O	G	R	A	M		B	A	D	E	G	G
N		C		A		C				X		N		N
A	R	T	I	S	T	E	S		B	Y	P	A	S	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	5	8	6	3	1	2	7
1	3	6	9	2	7	5	8	4
2	7	8	1	4	5	9	6	3
8	5	3	6	9	2	4	7	1
6	1	9	7	5	4	8	3	2
7	2	4	3	8	1	6	5	9
3	8	2	5	1	9	7	4	6
4	6	1	2	7	8	3	9	5
5	9	7	4	3	6	2	1	8

FAITH

The small form inside

Sage Suka tells Pareekshit that dhyana should begin with focusing the mind on the Supreme form of Lord Narayana, that is His Virat form. The next stage is to focus on the Lord as antaryami, elaborated Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. In a small form, He exists inside everyone. He holds His weapons such as the conch, discus and mace. He has an enchanting smile. His eyes are beautiful like lotuses. His smile is pleasing. He wears a yellow garment. His jewels are studded with precious gems. His crown and earrings are of gold too. On His chest is the gem known as Kaustubha. He wears a garland of fresh flowers. It will not be possible to visualise all aspects of this small form. We can start by turning our thoughts towards each feature separately, one after the other.

Kamban says those who saw Rama's broad shoulders could not take their eyes off them. Those who saw His lotus-like feet continued to see only His feet, without turning their attention to anything else. Those who saw Rama's hands continued to see them and saw nothing else. Likewise, we can first focus on His feet, and then meditate on other features, going up to His smile. We have to surrender ourselves to the Lord. Saranagati is the only route to liberation. We must surrender to Him even when we are young. Saranagati should not be postponed to old age. We must not think that bathing in the Ganga when we are old, and visits to pilgrim centres will automatically lead to liberation. We may wonder what the auspicious time for surrender is. There is no specific time for Saranagati. It can be done at any time. Is there any particular place for Saranagati? Again, the answer is in the negative.

INBRIEF

Govt. to sell up to 5% stake in BHEL at ₹254 a share via OFS

The government will sell up to 5% stake in Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) via an offer for sale (OFS) beginning on Wednesday at a floor price of ₹254 a share, an official said. "Government offers to disinvest 3 per cent equity in the BHEL with an additional 2 per cent as green shoe option," DIPAM Secretary Arunish Chawla said on X. The issue will open for non-retail investors on Wednesday, while retail investors will get to put in price bid on Thursday. PTI

NMDC increases iron ore prices by ₹100 a tonne

State-owned miner NMDC has increased iron ore prices by ₹100 a tonne effective February 10. Consequent to the revision, the price of Baila Lump is ₹4,700 per tonne and Baila Fines ₹4,000 for the same quantity. These are FOR prices exclusive of royalty, DMF, NMEDT, cess, Forest Permit Fee, transit fee, GST, environmental Cess and other taxes, NMDC said in a filing on Tuesday. The miner reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,747.01 crore for the December quarter.

RCPL acquires Southern Health Foods for ₹156 crore

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. (RCPL) has acquired Southern Health Foods Private Ltd. for an aggregate cash consideration of ₹156.42 crore from existing shareholders. Consequently, SHFPL has become a wholly owned subsidiary of RCPL effective February 9, 2026, RIL said in a statement. SHFPL was incorporated on April 16, 2012. The company, represented by its flagship brand Manna, is a manufacturer of wide-ranging healthy foods for over two decades.

Jan. auto retail sales rise 19% to cross 27 lakh units, led by 2-wheelers

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Overall vehicle retail sales in January grew 18.61% year on year (YoY) to 27,22,558 units, led by growth in two-wheeler (2W), commercial vehicle (CVs) and three-wheeler (3W) sales, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on Tuesday.

FADA said the near team outlook was positive.

The growth was powered by continued post-GST momentum, healthy rural cashflows on the back of harvest and weddings, and sustained demand visibility across mobility and freight.

Category-wise, two-wheelers grew 20.82%, passenger vehicles (PVs) 7.22%, CVs 15.07%, tractors 22.89% and three-wheelers by 18.80%. On the other hand, construction equipment continues to remain under pressure at a negative sales of 21.09% YoY, indicating a high-base impact and segment-specific recalibration.

Two-wheelers led the charge with 18,52,870 units (20.82%, with the rural share at 56% (urban 44%). Rural volumes stayed robust with a growth of 19.77% YoY, supported by Pongal/Makar Sankranti, marriage-season footfalls and better affordability.

"We are also seeing a clear revival in urban markets," said FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar.

Indian exporters perturbed by U.S.-Bangladesh trade pact

Bangladesh must use U.S.-sourced raw materials to avail zero tariff, but Indian sector stakeholders feel the time taken to receive U.S. cotton, its transport and storage, could reduce its cost advantage

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The U.S. Bangladesh Agreement on Reciprocal Trade has led to concerns among Indian textile and apparel exporters who were looking forward to a competitive advantage over Bangladesh with the 19% tariff on goods from that country, as Indian merchandise would be taxed a tad lower at 18%.

According to the U.S. Bangladesh Agreement, the U.S. will establish a mechanism that will allow for certain textile and apparel goods from Bangladesh to receive zero reciprocal tariff based on the use of U.S. cotton or MMF yarn.

India exported $1.47 billion worth cotton yarn (570 million kg) to Bangladesh, which is the biggest destination for Indian yarn, in 2024-2025. It also shipped 12-14 lakh bales of cotton to Bangladesh last year. Almost 20% of Bangladesh's garment and 26% of India's cotton apparel exports are to the U.S.

Top destination: India exported $1.47 billion worth cotton yarn to Bangladesh in 2024-2025. SIVA SARAVANAN S

Immediate impact

"I fear that the immediate impact will be on Indian cotton yarn as Bangladesh can buy U.S. cotton and spin at its textile mills," said Chandrima Chatterjee, secretary general of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry.

"How will the U.S. determine traceability of the raw material? As Bangladesh is very strong in apparels, we may stand to lose," said K.M. Subramanian, president of the Tiruppur Exporters Association.

"Bangladesh has to buy MMF yarn or cotton from the U.S. for the reciprocal tariff of 19% to be waived. But, the MFN rate will continue. The time taken to receive the U.S. cotton and the transport and storage costs should be taken into consideration. Further, not all products can be made from American cotton. So, the product mix should change and supply chain should be realigned in Bangladesh," said Siddhartha Rajagopal, executive director of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

"There is an Executive Order by the U.S. government issued last April that says that the ad valorem rates of duty applies only on the non-US component of a product, when there is at least 20% value addition," said A. Sakthivel, chairman of the AEPC. "We will appeal to the Indian government to ask for a provision similar to the one given to Bangladesh for Indian apparel exporters too," he said.

Lupin settles infringement row with Astellas

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Lupin has settled with Astellas Pharma a patent infringement dispute relating to overactive bladder drug Mirabegron.

The company and its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary Lupin Pharmaceuticals Inc. have entered into a settlement and license agreement with Astellas resolving the pending litigation and allowing Lupin to continue to sell Mirabegron.

Under the terms of the agreement, Lupin will pay Astellas $90 million, which includes a prepaid option payment of $75 million, and a prepaid per unit license fee for each unit of Lupin product sold from the date of the settlement through September 2027. The settlement terms are confidential, Lupin said in a filing on Tuesday.

Lupin had in April 2024 launched Mirabegron Extended-Release Tablets, 25 mg, a generic equivalent of Astellas Pharma Global Development Inc.'s Myrbetriq Extended-Release Tablets, 25 mg, in the U.S. following approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Citing then current industry sales numbers, it had had then said Mirabegron Extended-Release Tablets, 25 mg had estimated annual sales of $1,019 million in the U.S.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	84,274	0.25
US Dollar	90.56	0.11
Gold	1,60,700	1.38
Brent oil	68.91	0.24

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2228.40	-21.70
Adani Ports	1554.70	-7.00
Apollo Hosp	7219.00	8.00
Asian Paints	2393.60	-23.80
Axis Bank	1356.70	15.30
Bajaj Auto	9774.00	184.00
Bajaj Finserv	2027.90	3.30
Bajaj Finance	965.60	-17.55
Bharat Elec	437.30	0.00
Bharti Airtel	2011.30	-26.90
Cipla	1342.10	-0.40
Coal India	430.95	-0.75
Dr Reddys Lab	1256.00	-19.50
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7296.00	100.50
Eternal Ltd.	303.80	14.95
Grasim Ind	2953.90	27.60
HCL Tech	1573.10	-28.90
HDFC Bank	932.40	-4.85
HDFC Life	703.95	-3.95
Hindalco	968.90	4.65
Hind Unilever	2453.60	18.60
ICICI Bank	1406.50	10.20
IntGlobeAvi	4960.40	-3.70
Infosys	1497.80	0.60
ITC	321.40	-1.40
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	270.20	0.95
JSW Steel	1244.10	-0.90
Kotak Bank	429.30	0.50
L&T	4169.00	55.40
M&M	3675.80	66.20
Maruti Suzuki	15146.00	168.00
Max Healthcare	1021.50	11.50
NestleIndia	1308.60	13.00
NTPC	366.90	5.00
ONGC	272.15	5.55
PowerGrid Corp	294.35	4.60
Reliance Ind	1458.50	-3.10
SBI Life	2018.30	-5.70
State Bank	1144.10	-1.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1048.60	-14.10
Sun Pharma	1707.80	3.20
TataConsumerProduct	1152.20	-15.00
Tata Steel	208.01	6.01
TCS	2984.60	36.40
Tech Mahindra	1644.60	22.90
Titan	4269.10	11.30
Tata Motors PV	379.35	1.95
Trent Ltd.	4184.40	13.20
UltraTech Cement	13023.00	-25.00
Wipro	231.47	1.39

DE: Demerged Entity

Happiest Minds Q3 net falls 19.6%

IT firm Happiest Minds Technologies has reported a 19.56% decline in consolidated net profit to ₹40.3 crore in the October-December quarter, primarily weighed down by impact of the new labour code. PTI

SME Forum urges SC not to bar data sharing by Meta, cites harm to them

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Forum has intervened in the Supreme Court, praying Meta-owned firms not be prohibited from sharing user data with each other, arguing such a ban would "cause substantial harm and hardship" to SMEs.

The intervention, viewed by *The Hindu*, reacts to the SC's oral observations on February 3, where the court warned Meta could face a complete prohibition on sharing user data across platforms.

SC warned Meta could face a complete bar on data sharing.

"The applicant's members, particularly MSMEs, would be directly and substantially affected by such orders or directions, as restrictions on data sharing for advertising would undermine their ability to reach interested customers effectively on Facebook and Instagram," the Forum said. "MSMEs often lack resources, requiring them to find cheaper and cost-effective alternatives, including tools offered by WhatsApp and Meta, which may require data sharing. These tools enable MSMEs to compete more effectively with larger businesses at significantly lower costs."

Meta's plea over fine

The intervention comes in the context of Meta's appeal against a fine and conditions imposed on the firm by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which were largely upheld by the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The CCI also filed an appeal against a part of the NCLAT judgment. Meta didn't immediately comment on the intervention.

Tuesday's hearing was contentious, with the company facing intense questioning about its data privacy practices, owing to its dominance in personal and business messaging in India. Meta argued users can opt out of data sharing, but the justices questioned the comprehensibility of such a mechanism.

Tata Motors to supply 70,000 vehicles to Indonesia

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

PT Tata Motors Distribusi Indonesia, a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd., said it will supply 70,000 vehicles for deployment in Indonesia.

The vehicles will be used to support agricultural activities and rural logistics across the country, the company said.

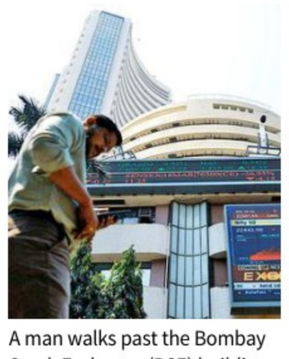
Tata Motors will supply 35,000 units each of the Yodha (pick-up) and the Ultra T.7 (truck), to its subsidiary PT Tata Motors Distribusi Indonesia.

Equity MF inflows slid 14.3% on geopolitics in January: AMFI

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Net inflows into equity mutual funds fell 14.3% to ₹24,028.6 crore on heightened geopolitical tensions and related volatility in January from December 2025, as per Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) data. This is the second consecutive month of declining inflows. The flows, however, stayed positive for 59 months straight.

Net inflows slid from ₹28,054.6 crore in December 2025 and ₹29,911.05 crore in November 2025. "January's data reflects a broadly steady trend in India's mutual fund industry despite ongoing global uncertainties and short-term market volatility," said Venkat Chalasani, CEO, AMFI.


A man walks past the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) building.

The interest in gold ETFs continued to rise with net inflows doubling to ₹24,039.96 crore in January from ₹11,647 crore in December despite caution from market experts that the gold rally may moderate this year as they had surged 80% last year.

"The data shows equity inflows moderated month-on-month even as overall investor participation was steady. Flexi-cap funds continued to attract highest inflows at about ₹7,600 crore, indicating sustained preference for diversified equity strategies amid volatile market conditions," said Suranjana Borthakur of Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India).

Budget ups limit but NRIs hold 0.6% of NSE firms

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Non-resident Indians (NRIs) held less than 1% of shares of NSE listed companies in the last three fiscal years even as Union Budget 2026-27 doubled investment limit for them to 10% from the existing 5%, according to data from Prime Database.

As of Q3FY26, NRIs owned just 0.62% of NSE-listed shares. The most the cohort held in the more than 2,600 companies of the largest index in India was just 0.64% in Q1FY25 and the smallest share was in Q3FY22. The composition did not change despite changing quarterly returns of the Nifty 500 index in the past three years.

Further, none of the Nifty 50, which is the 50 most representative companies of corporate India, were in the list of 20 companies with the most NRI shareholding.

A file image of the National Stock Exchange building.

Foreign investment limit by NRIs is delineated under the Portfolio Investment Scheme brought in under the Foreign Exchange Management Act in 2000. The limits were fixed at 5%/NRI and 10% for all NRIs put together.

Limits raised

Investments above 10% were allowed up to 24% with RBI approval. Under the Union Budget 2026-27 the limits were increased to 10% and 24% respectively without any need for an approval to promote "ease of doing business."

While this does create opportunities for NRIs to invest, experts sound cautious. "Generally we believe it is unlikely individual NRIs will hold 5% or 10% of a company," said Nitin Jain, CEO and director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Singapore. "However, the increase in the aggregate holding of NRIs up to 24% should be seen as a good move as it will provide for more headroom for aggregate participation in Indian companies by NRIs," Mr. Jain said.

Members of the diaspora are often seen being enthusiastic during PM Narendra Modi's foreign visits. On the contrary, data relating to their economic interest in India is in contrast to this vocal support.

NRIs often maintain a strong cultural connection with India, but investment decisions are shaped more by regulatory complexity, tax compliance norms and risk-adjusted returns, said Srinath Sridharan, strategic adviser to business families and boards.

"For many older emigrants, navigating India's compliance environment and governance variability can appear less predictable compared with mature markets such as the U.S. or the U.K. Younger emigrants, meanwhile, frequently find more attractive dollar-denominated opportunities abroad," Mr. Sridharan added.

Safer bets

Further, Indian equities may not always emerge as the most efficient near-term choice in an increasingly competitive global landscape where investors are constantly scanning for safer and more compelling bets across markets.

On the policy intent behind the move, Former Finance Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said the policy announcement was to 'give feelers' to the diaspora that Indian stock markets are more open now. Further, he said, even the government is aware that the impact of the higher ceiling is limited.

"NRIs earn higher returns on FCNR bank deposits and property holdings in India than the stock markets," he said.

To be sure, Indian equity markets have under-performed in dollar terms in comparison with major markets in the past year.

For context, foreign institutional investor interest in Indian equities is at a multi-decadal low, with more than ₹1.6 lakh crore stocks sold by funds.

However, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) and retail investors have largely kept the markets afloat.

MATSYAFED
E-TENDER NOTICE

Mfed/Mktg/M1/5531/2025-26
05/02/2026

Matsyafed invites online bids in two bid system (Technical & Financial) for the supply of **Nylon Multifilament twine, Nylon Multifilament Webbings, Nylon Monofilament Twine, Nylon Monofilament Webbings, HDPE Fish Net webbing, HDPE Twine for Cages & Deep sea fishing, HDPE T&B Twine, HDPE/PP Ropes, Fish Net Resin, PVC Fishing Float, Plastic Fishing Float, Fish net Dyes, HDPE Woven Sacks, Insulated Boxes, Plastic Crates, Life saving equipments, Plastic basket** to the net factories and OBM Division.

Last date of submission of e-bid : **18/02/2026**
Date of opening of E-bid **24/02/2026**
For details visit : **http://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Further clarifications / Corrigendum in this regard will only be put up on **www.matsyafed.in**.
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

KERALA STATE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (MATSYAFED)
KAMALESWARAM, MANACAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695009
Phone: 0471-2458606, 2457756, 2457172
Website: www.matsyafed.in
Email: matsyafed@matsyafed.in

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012
ADMISSIONS 2026-27

Applications are invited for: **(1)** Research Programmes [Ph D/M Tech (Research)]; **(2)** External Registration Programme (ERP) [Ph D/M Tech (Research) **(3)** Course Programmes in Engineering [M Tech/M Des/M Mgt/M. Tech through CFTI Mode/Joint M. Tech/ 1-Year M. Engg/ M. Tech/M. Des. for Sponsored candidates (Govt & PSU); **(4)** Course Programmes in Science [M Sc in Life Sciences/ M Sc in Chemical Sciences/ M Sc in Physics]; **(5)** Integrated Ph D Programmes; **(6)** Four-year BS. (Research); and **(7)** B. Tech Programmes (Mathematics and Computing, Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanics and Computing, Aerospace Engineering).

For eligibility, areas of research/study, selection procedure, any other details, and to apply online, please visit our website: **www.iisc.ac.in/admissions.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Website opens for online submission of applications for Research, PG Course, Sponsored, Integrated PhD programmes and ERP	**11.02.2026**
Last date of online submission of applications for Research, PG Course and Integrated PhD programmes (website closes at 23:59 hours)	**23.03.2026**
Last date of online submission of applications for Sponsored and ERP programmes (website closes at 23:59 hours)	**31.03.2026**

UG PROGRAMMES

Website opens for online submission of applications for **Four year BS(Res.) and B. Tech. programmes**	To be Announced
Last date of online submission of applications for Four- year BS(Res.) and B. Tech. programmes (website closes at 23:59 hours)	To be Announced

REGISTRAR

WASHINGTON

Trump threatens to block opening of new Detroit-Canada bridge

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday threatened to block the opening of a new Canadian-built bridge across the Detroit River, demanding that Canada turn over at least half of the ownership of the bridge and agree to other unspecified demands in his latest salvo over cross-border trade issues. AP

LONDON

'Putin thinks he can outsmart the U.S. during Ukraine peace talks'

REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin has no desire to halt Russia's almost 4-year-old invasion of neighbouring Ukraine and thinks he can "outsmart" the United States during talks with Washington about how to end the war, said Kaupo Rosin, the head of Estonia's foreign intelligence service. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak.'s apex court allows lawyer of Imran's party to meet him in jail

REUTERS

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed Salman Safdar, a lawyer of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, to meet incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan in prison and submit a report about his "living conditions". It will be the first meeting with Mr. Khan by anyone since December 2. PTI

WASHINGTON

U.S. set to repeal climate finding in huge regulatory rollback this week

REUTERS

The Trump administration plans to repeal this week the Obama-era endangerment finding that underpins federal greenhouse gas rules. The expected move, called the largest U.S. deregulation act, would end vehicle emission standards but exclude power plants, facing possible legal and environmental challenges. REUTERS

'Will hand over power to elected govt. fast,' says Muhammad Yunus

The Chief Adviser asks voters to support the 'July Charter' in a referendum, which seeks to amend the Constitution; the proposed changes will impose limits on the powers of the Prime Minister and grant certain powers to the presidency

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Muhammad Yunus attends an event to announce the July Charter outside Bangladesh's parliament in October 2025. AP

The February 12 election is not just a routine political event but a moment when the people of Bangladesh will determine the course of their collective destiny, Chief Adviser of the interim government Muhammad Yunus said on Tuesday. In a nationally televised address that came hours after political campaign ended on Tuesday, Mr. Yunus called for citizens to vote in favour of the popular referendum on the 'July Charter' that will bring substantial changes to the Constitution. Polling will be 'inclusive' as 51 political parties will contest for power, he said, adding that the interim government will "fast" hand over power to the elected government.

"The task of the interim government will end with the election of a new government. We will return to our respective professions after handing over power with joy and pride to the new elected government," said Mr. Yunus.

He said the impact of the referendum on adopting the principles of the July Charter will influence a generation and called upon voters to come out and vote in favour of the Charter.

"A vote for the referendum is not just a seal on paper. It will determine the direction of education, employment and justice system in the coming days," said Mr. Yunus. The proposed changes will impose limits on the powers of the Prime Minister, and give certain powers to the President, who is currently a titular figure in the state structure of Bangladesh. The interim government has announced four days holiday for the election.

Meanwhile the interim government on Tuesday announced that the family of Dipu Chandra Das, who was lynched and burnt on December 18, 2025 in Mymensingh by a mob, will get 25 lakh Taka (₹18.5 lakh) as assistance for the construction of a house by the Das family.

That apart, the father and wife of late Das will get 10 lakhs Taka each and the a fixed deposit amount of 5 lakh Taka will be dedicated to Das's child.

Israel PM, Trump to meet as Iran tensions stay high

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday the top priority in his talks with U.S. President Donald Trump would be the ongoing negotiations with Iran, as he presses for a tougher U.S. approach to Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

So far, Iran has rejected expanding the scope of its talks with the U.S. beyond the issue of its nuclear programme, though Washington also wants Tehran's ballistic missile programme and its support for regional militant groups on the table.

The two leaders are to meet in Washington on Wednesday, their sixth such encounter in the United States since Mr. Trump returned to office a year ago.

They also met in Jerusalem in October when Mr. Trump announced a ceasefire in Gaza.

Wednesday's meeting comes days after arch-foes Iran and the United States held talks in Oman, after which Mr. Trump said another round of negotiations would follow.

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Trump will also meet amid growing international outrage over Israeli measures to tighten control of the occupied West Bank by allowing settlers to buy land directly from its Palestinian owners.

However, it remains unclear whether the issue will be raised in their talks, despite Mr. Trump's past opposition to any annexation of the West Bank.

"On this trip we will discuss a range of issues: Gaza, the region, but of course first and foremost the negotiations with Iran," Mr. Netanyahu said, in a video statement before his departure.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson warned on Tuesday that Mr. Netanyahu's visit would have a "destructive" influence on diplomacy that is "detrimental to the region".

Takaichi's win could mean more tensions with China

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Popular choice: Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi enters the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo on Tuesday. AFP

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's landslide victory in the snap polls she had called for could mean more tensions with China and hold out hope for closer India ties in the Indo-Pacific, say experts.

In particular, the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) record performance winning two-thirds of the Japanese House of Representatives will accrue to Ms. Takaichi personally, given the LDP's poor performance in the past. Ms. Takaichi, who first came to power after an intra-party election in October 2025, was preceded by Shigeru Ishiba, Fumio Kishida and Yoshihide Suga, all of whom served as PM for two-three years.

"The win is entirely due to PM Takaichi's personal popularity," said former Ambassador to Japan Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, comparing the "drubbing the LDP had got" in 2024 elections to the latest polls where the LDP won 316 of 465 seats. "As a protege of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe she can be expected to carry on his legacy and that means focus on the Indo-Pacific and valuing close ties with India," Ms. Wadhwa told *The Hindu*.

In particular, Ms. Takaichi's personal style in international engagements won her many voters, Tomohiko Taniguchi, professor at Japan's Keio University and an adviser to Shinzo Abe, said.

"The way she smiled with Donald Trump, the way she embraced the Italian Prime Minister, and the way she sat down at the drum set with the president of South Korea—all this set her dramatically apart from her three immediate predecessors: Suga, Kishida, and, worse still, Ishiba, none of whom learned how to connect with ordinary people," he added, pointing to Ms. Takaichi's "viral" social media content.

The Japanese PM will now be watched most closely for whether she sets out mend fences with China, or step up the country's security policies to counter its maritime neighbour with whom tensions have been high since November, when Ms. Takaichi's comments on Taiwan set off a series of economic sanctions by China.

Defence spend

"[PM Takaichi] can certainly increase the defence budget – something China may not welcome. Yet, the relationship between Xi and Takaichi could well improve, simply because Xi tends to show due respect to leaders who have proven themselves strong and resilient," Mr. Taniguchi said.

Beijing will also watch closely to see if Ms. Takaichi, with her massive mandate makes moves toward a less pacifist, more securitised constitution although she would only be able to make changes if the LDP wins similarly in upper house where elections are not due until 2028.

Ms. Takaichi, who was congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the win on Sunday, said in a post she looks forward to working on bilateral ties and to "cooperate in realising a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)". However, New Delhi will hope for her to push specifically for holding the Quad summit in India, which has not been held since 2024, with the U.S. as well. Ms. Takaichi is expected to travel to Washington in March, ahead of a visit to Beijing by U.S. President Donald Trump in April.

"[PM] Takaichi knows that her friend and mentor, Abe Shinzo, respected both Modi and Singh, and how much strategic importance he placed on India and the QUAD," said Mr. Taniguchi. "She has indicated that she intends to give renewed momentum to FOIP, QUAD, and Japan's relations with India", he added, in comments to *The Hindu*.

China to offer support for 'reunification forces' in Taiwan

Reuters
BEIJING

China will offer firm support for "patriotic pro-reunification forces" in Taiwan and strike hard against "separatists", the top Chinese official in charge of policy towards the democratically-governed island said in comments published on Tuesday.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory despite the objections of the government in Taipei, has ramped up its military and political pressure against the island as Beijing seeks to assert its sovereignty claims.

Addressing this year's annual "Taiwan Work Conference", the ruling communist party's fourth-ranked leader Wang Huning said officials must advance the "great cause of national reunification", the official state-run *Xinhua* news agency said.

'Safeguard peace'

It is necessary to "firmly support the patriotic pro-unification forces on the island, resolutely strike against 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces, oppose interference by external forces, and safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait", Xinhua paraphrased him as saying.

While the report made no mention of the use of force, China has never renounced using military means to bring Taiwan under its control, the Chinese Defence Ministry struck a stronger note commenting on Taiwanese military deployments.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Koppal

No:KOP-DC-REV/CENSUS/50/2020/E-39431 Date: 10.02.2026

Tender Notification
(Through KPPP-Portal)

Tenders are invited from Manpower Agency for hiring of Technical Assistants (19), Multitasking Staff (1), for O/o The Deputy Commissioner, Koppal & its sub offices on outsource basis for a period of **01.03.2026 to 28.02.2027.** Tender document may be downloaded & Terms and Conditions can be viewed in Government of Karnataka e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for receipt of tenders is **26.02.2026 up to 4.00 PM**

Sd/-Deputy Commissioner
& Tender Inviting Authority
O/o The Deputy Commissioner,
Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/664/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-3/2025-26/ DATED: 07.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 37/2025-26, Dated: 07.02.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD and the contractors belonging to Scheduled caste, Scheduled Tribe, Category-I & Category-2(A) shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 23 Works under PWD Hassan Division Sakaleshapura Taluk jurisdiction. In that 03 works are reserved for scheduled caste contractors, 03 works are reserved for scheduled tribe contractors, 01 work is reserved for category-1 and 04 works are reserved for category-2(A) contractors. The minimum estimated amount is Rs.10.00 Lakhs and maximum estimated amount is Rs.120.00 Lakhs. The amount mentioned in tender notification is sanctioned estimated cost, but EMD & class of contractor is considered based on amount put to tender which excludes GST & other charges. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 20.02.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,
Hassan Division, Hassan.

ಪ್ರಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1050/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ/2025–26

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU ORIGINAL JURISDICTION PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO. 24/2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE WILL AND LAST TESTMENT OF THE FR THOMAS MYLADOOR (DECEASED)

BETWEEN
MR. JOSEPH NEDUMPARAMBIL
S/o Mr. Joseph
Aged about 52 years
Residing at Don Bosco Provincial House, Milton Street, Cooke Town, Bengaluru -560005
President,
The Magadi Don Bosco Society
.....PETITIONER

AND
NIL .... RESPONDENT

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has made a petition dated 26.11.2025 under Part IX (Sections 222, 273, 276, & 300) of the Indian Succession Act of 1925 for grant of probate in respect of the Will and Last Testament of Fr Thomas Myladoor (Deceased). The fixed place of abode of the deceased at the time of his death was "Don Bosco Provincial House" Milton Street, Cooke Town, at Bengaluru.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **Twenty Fourth day of March Two thousand and twenty Six (24.03.2026),** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate

Given under my hand and seal of this the **Thirtieth day of January Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.**

By order of Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru-560001

Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 07.02.2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU ORIGINAL JURISDICTION PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO. 25/2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE WILL AND LAST TESTMENT OF FR THOMAS MYLADOOR (DECEASED)

BETWEEN
MR. JOE TONY PREVINTH,
S/o Mr. S. Peter
Aged about 48 years
Residing at Don Bosco Provincial House, Milton Street, Cooke Town, Bengaluru -560005
President,
The K.G.F. Don Bosco Society
.....PETITIONER

AND
NIL .... RESPONDENT

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has made a petition dated 26.11.2025 under Part IX (Sections 222, 273, 276, & 300) of the Indian Succession Act of 1925 for grant of probate in respect of the Will and Last Testament of Fr Thomas Myladoor (Deceased). The fixed place of abode of the deceased at the time of his death was "Don Bosco Provincial House" Milton Street, Cooke Town, at Bengaluru.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **Twenty Fourth day of March Two thousand and twenty Six (24.03.2026)** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.

Given under my hand and seal of this the **Thirtieth day of January Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.**

By order of Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru-560001

Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 07.02.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ DISTRICT HOSPITAL, BALLARI.
ಎಸ್‌ಟಿಡಿ–08392, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು–274255 ಪ.ಆ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ–274254
E-mail bellaryds@gmail.com

APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATION

For Financial Year 2025-26 District Hospital, Ballari invited applications for the post of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (Junior Consultant) for the DNB Course under National Health Mission Programme. This appointment is purely on contract basis for one year. Interested eligible candidates should attend walk in interview with Original Documents and 1 set of Xerox copies.

Date of Interview:18/02/2026 Time:11:00 AM
Place of interview: District Hospital, Ballari.
Department: Junior Consultant in Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology . **Post:** 01. **Remmunaration:** Rs.1,30,000/- **Qualification:** MD/DNB/Degree in concerned specialty. **Age Limit:** 70 Years

Conditions for recruitment of Junior Consultant:-
1.Should have a minimum of 5 years of experience after qualifying MD /MS / DNB or equivalent in the specialty concerned (The Qualification in the specialty should be a recognized qualification as per the provision of IMC Act.). 2.Candidate should have an MD/DNB Degree in concerned Specialty and should not be recruited person in any other Medical College / Hospital. 3.Candidate should be registered under the Karnataka Medical Council (KMC). 4.The speacialists DNB (Junior Consultant) will recruit for one year. 5.Age limit for recruitment: The specialist DNB PG teacher should be within 70 years of age and should be in good physical and mental health. He/she should be capable of carrying out the duties of the PG Teacher in teaching and training the DNB candidates. 6.DNB OBG Specialists monthly remmunaration of Rs.1,30,000/- (One lakhs thirty thousand rupees only).

Sd/- District Surgeon, District Hospital, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/991/KSMCA/2025-26

COIN CALL

We are Pakistan and we do things differently, says skipper Agha

AP

We are Pakistan, we do things differently to the world [when asked why the team wanted to bat first]. We are comfortable with chasing as well. Our top-three batters will probably go in the same order but we are flexible after that. There is always room for improvement — captain Salman Agha after the win over the USA.

OPENING SALVO

Seifert and Allen record highest stand in T20 World Cup history

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Kiwi openers Finn Allen and Tim Seifert etched their names in the record books when they stitched an unbeaten 175-run partnership against the UAE, making it the highest in a T20 World Cup game. They beat the unbroken 170-run stand set by England's Alex Hales and Jos Buttler against India in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinals.

LESSONS TO LEARN

We have to work out how to restrict rival batters: Waseem

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

I think we have to work out how to restrict the opposition batters. It is about how we have to bowl, which lines and lengths we have to bowl to those batters. We will look to improve on those aspects in the upcoming games – UAE skipper Muhammad Waseem after his side's defeat to New Zealand.

INJURY WOES

Hasaranga ruled out of the WC, Hemantha named replacement

AP

Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga *(in pic)* has been ruled out because of a hamstring injury sustained in the opening match against Ireland. Dushan Hemantha has been named as replacement. New Zealand's Michael Bracewell has also been ruled out for the remainder of the T20 World Cup after re-injuring his left calf.

Farhan, Shadab shine in Pakistan's easy win

The former top-scores with a 41-ball 73 to power the 2009 champion to 190 against USA while the latter proves his value with an all-round show

T20 WORLD CUP

Sahil Mathur
COLOMBO

The USA's batting faltered again as Pakistan's spin-heavy approach turned out to be the difference in their T20 World Cup Group A clash at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) here on Tuesday.

Pakistan's spinners, led by Usman Tariq's three-for and Shadab Khan's two for 26, who earlier hit a 12-ball 30, helped the team defend 190 by 32 runs to notch up its second successive win.

Blazing away: Farhan smashed six fours and five sixes in his breezy knock. AP

Spinners to the fore

Pakistan played with just one fast bowler, Shaheen Afridi, while the spinners shared the remaining 16 overs, picking up seven of the eight wickets as the USA managed only 158 in its failed pursuit.

Bowling under lights, the tweakers weren't afraid to toss the ball up and were rewarded.

For the USA, only Shayan Jahangir (49) and Shubham Ranjane (51) consistently found the middle of the bat in an otherwise poor display.

Earlier, Pakistan's top-order feasted on indiscipline to power the side to 190 for nine. Saim Ayub set the tone early, skipping down the track to launch Saurabh Netravalkar for a six in the opening over. The bowlers struggled to settle on a consistent length as Sahibzada Farhan (73) slashed, pulled and punched to find the fence regularly.

The momentum stalled briefly when Shadley van Schalkwyk rolled his fingers, drawing Ayub into a slash to short third. Skipper Salman Agha followed soon after, pulling straight to deep square leg.

But Farhan continued to attack the spinners, who kept a flatter trajectory throughout, bringing up a 27-ball fifty. Babar Azam (46) began quietly but shifted gears after his first boundary off his 19th delivery. The 81-run stand ended with Babar's dismissal, which triggered a collapse. Pakistan lost seven wickets for 53 before its spinners came to the forefront.

The scores: Pakistan 190/9 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 73, Babar Azam 46, Shadab Khan 30, Shadley van Schalkwyk 4/25) bt USA 158/8 in 20 overs (Shayan Jahangir 49, Shubham Ranjane 51, Usman Tariq 3/27, Shadab 2/26).

Toss: USA; **PoM:** Farhan.

ICC-PCB dialogue took place as part of a broader engagement

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The International Cricket Council, early on Tuesday, confirmed that Pakistan will honour its commitment of playing all the matches, including the marquee clash against India in Colombo on February 15, at the ongoing T20 World Cup.

"The dialogue between ICC and PCB took place as part of a broader engagement with both parties recognising the need for constructive dealings and being united, committed and purposeful in their aspirations to serve the best interests of the game with integrity, neutrality and cooperation," read an ICC statement.

"In that prevailing spirit, it was agreed that all members will respect their commitments as per the terms of participation for ICC events and do all that is necessary to ensure that the ongoing edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup is a success," it added.

> It was agreed that all members will respect their commitments as per the terms of participation for ICC events and do all that is necessary to ensure that the T20 World Cup is a success
> ICC

Affirmation

The statement was an affirmation of the PCB's commitment to play all the games in the tournament, as stated in the Members' Participation Agreement that is signed between the ICC and each of the 12 ICC full members.

Ever since the Government of Pakistan had last week directed the Pakistan team to not take the field against India in a bid to support Bangladesh, the global cricket ecosystem was in a fix over the fate of the big game that is the epicentre of cricket's finances.

Earlier, BCB president Aminul Islam had requested the PCB and its chief Mohsin Naqvi, also an influential minister in Pakistan, to play against India.

Over the last couple of days, ICC directors Imran Khwaja (Singapore) and Mubashir Usmani (UAE) held multiple rounds of meetings in Lahore with Naqvi, PCB officials and Islam who had travelled from Dhaka.

A separate ICC statement said that Bangladesh will host an additional ICC event prior to the 2031 World Cup.

Cricket economics trumps the complexities of sub-continental politics

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

In the wee hours of Tuesday, phones buzzed in specific offices at Dubai, Delhi, Mumbai and Islamabad, and a seemingly amicable solution was arrived at.

The ICC T20 World Cup's top-billed clash featuring India and Pakistan in Group A, will indeed happen as scheduled at Colombo on February 15.

While questions will swirl around the placement of India and Pakistan in the same group in ICC events, it has to be conceded that it is a commercial decision that helps the official broadcaster and the ICC rake in the moolah. The historical angst underpinning Indo-Pak encounters adds another distinct layer too, even if the jingoistic promotional campaigns deserve the dustbin.

The earlier state of limbo about this overhyped clash was caused by an over-reaction from the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) which stated that since Bangladesh was removed from the championship, Salman Agha's men will not play against the Men in Blue!

The historical truth of Bangladesh being carved out of Pakistan in 1971 was conveniently forgotten in the quest for a new brotherhood.

Uncertainty ends: After a lot of back and forth, it has been decided that Agha & Co. will play India in Colombo on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

That Bangladesh queered the pitch too by demanding a neutral venue away from India, at the last-minute, had already worsened the drama. And Dhaka's strident move was provoked by the BCCI instructing Kolkata Knight Riders to axe pacer Mustafizur Rahman from the Indian Premier League. This was seen as Delhi's way of staging a cricketing protest over the violence against the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh.

It was this move that drew instant reactions from the Bangladesh Cricket Board and the PCB. Soon, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and their respective cricketing boards and governments, got embroiled in a convoluted mess of injured sensibility and over-reactions that catered entirely to their domestic political domains.

Carrot of sops

The medley of rescue efforts involved the Sri Lankan Government, the alleged ICC carrot of sops to Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the stick of penalties. Truth be told, cricket did not win. But what is definite is that the complexities of sub-continental politics again played second-fiddle to the commercial judgement of going ahead with the game. All other lines in press-releases, are just platitudes.

Kiwi openers Seifert and Allen hammer UAE into submission

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

One of the areas where associate teams often fall short against established sides is their inability to compete hard in all facets of the game for the entire duration of a contest.

New Zealand taught UAE a tough lesson in just that as it made short work of a 174-run target with a 10-wicket win in a T20 World Cup Group D game at the MAC Stadium on Tuesday.

Openers Tim Seifert (89 n.o.) and Finn Allen (84 n.o.) thrashed a hapless bowling attack all over the park to finish off the chase in just 15.2 overs and help the Kiwis post their second win in Group D.

On a pitch that offered true bounce and carry, the UAE pacers were guilty of bowling too full, and the duo wielded their willows like axes, depositing innocuous deliveries into the stands with disdain.

Seifert kept it simple, targeting the straight boundaries and smashing left-arm pacer Muhammad Rohid for 19 runs in the sixth over to bring up his half-century off just 23 balls. Allen, not to be left behind, also hit cleanly through the line and reached his landmark off just 27 balls.

Going berserk: Seifert and Allen carted the UAE bowlers to all parts of the ground. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The 75-minute carnage from the openers took all the fizz out of an otherwise decent batting performance from the Middle Eastern country.

Waseem on song

Opting to bat, skipper Muhammad Waseem led from the front with an unbeaten half-century (66 n.o.) and carried his bat through to guide his team to 173 for six.

Waseem found support from Alishan Sharafu (55) as they stitched a 107-run stand for the second wicket. UAE maximised the PowerPlay, consolidated in the middle overs and closed it out in style, scoring 96 runs in the last 10 overs. However, it was only half the job done as the UAE bowlers ran into the Kiwi firestorm.

The scores: UAE 173/6 in 20 overs (Muhammad Waseem 66 n.o., Alishan Sharafu 55, Henry 2/37) lost to New Zealand 175/0 in 15.2 overs (Tim Seifert 89 n.o., Finn Allen 84 n.o.).

Toss: UAE; **PoM:** Seifert.

'Allen and I will remain aggressive'

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

New Zealand openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen set the MA Chidambaram Stadium alight with their attacking display, which sent the UAE players on a leather hunt. The duo's fearless show meant the Kiwis romped home with ease.

Seifert reflected on the team's positive start to the tournament and the aggressive approach adopted by the pair. "It's a nice way to start. The main thing is that we've won two games," Seifert said. "Finn and I are going to continue playing the same way. Some days it will come off, and some days it won't. For us, it's about enjoying our cricket, putting pressure on the bowlers, and having fun."

Allen highlighted the importance of game awareness during chases. "We try to get ourselves into good positions. We spoke about picking our moments. The surface was getting better as the game progressed, and we focused on rotating the strike as well, which we did quite well."

De Leede steers the Dutch to victory against Namibia

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Bas de Leede's unbeaten 72 (48b, 5x4, 4x6) led the Netherlands to a seven-wicket win against Namibia in a T20 World Cup Group-A encounter at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

In response to Namibia's 156 for eight, the Dutch side took 18 overs to ease to the target.

Having lost to Pakistan in the opening match, Scott Edwards and Co. have got off the mark in the marquee event.

While Max O'Dowd departed early in the chase, de Leede took firm control at No. 3 to ensure there were no jitters in the Netherlands camp.

Match-winner: De Leede ensured the Netherlands had a walk in the park. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Redemption

It was redemption for de Leede, whose notorious record of the most expensive figures in ODI history - 10-0-115-2 - came against Australia in the 2023 World Cup at this very ground.

Belonging to a cricketing family, the 26-year-old, whose father Tim de Leede represented the country in three ODI World Cups, got going with a six off Max Heingo in the fifth over.

If Louren Steenkamp had held on to Colin Ackermann's catch off J.J. Smit in the 10th over, the Netherlands may have had to work harder for victory. But the reprieve - he was on 13 at the time - allowed Ackermann to forge a 70-run stand with de Leede for the third wicket.

The latter hit the winning runs, deftly steering a full ball for four through short third, in the company of Edwards.

"Coming from a cricketing family in the Netherlands, it is really special to be able to perform and hopefully make my family proud," de Leede said.

Earlier, Jan Frylinck and Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton lent some solidity to Namibia's innings with a 50-run stand off 41 balls. However, the tempo of the partnership may have hindered the African side, which added 91 runs in the last 10 overs, from achieving a more robust total.

The scores: Namibia 156/8 in 20 overs (Jan Frylinck 30, Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton 42, Logan van Beek 2/13, Bas de Leede 2/20) lost to the Netherlands 159/3 in 18 overs (Bas de Leede 72 n.o., Colin Ackermann 32).

Toss: The Netherlands.

PoM: Bas de Leede.

'Great that the Pakistan game is back on'

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate weighed in on the news that the India-Pakistan clash in the T20 World Cup will go ahead.

"First of all, I think it's great that the game is back on. We kind of never changed our preparation that the game wasn't going to happen, we were always under the impression that something would transpire and we would play.

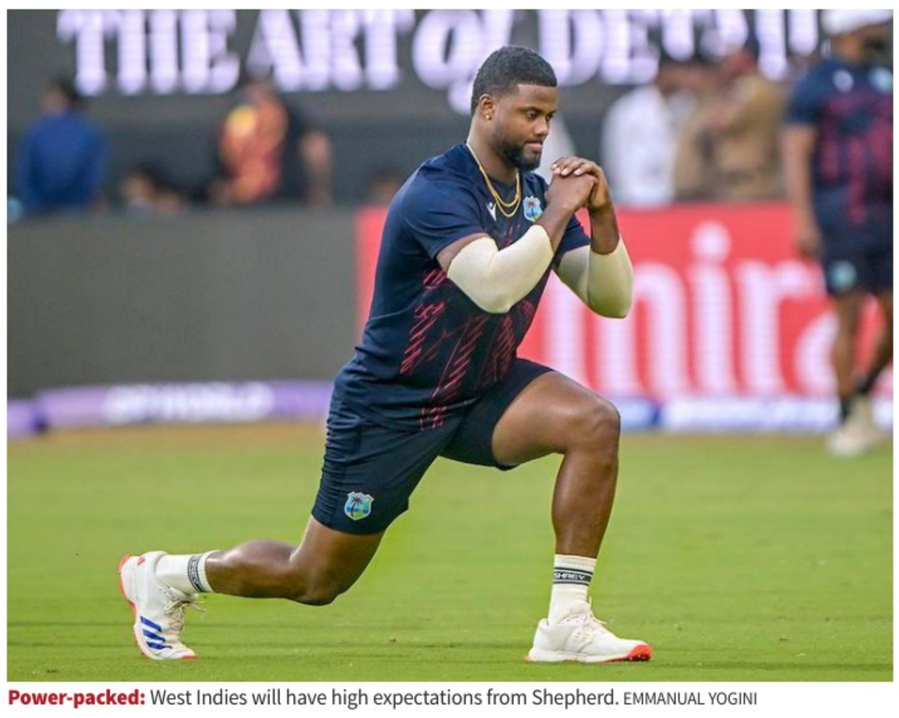
"We got confirmation early this morning that the game was going to go ahead and we'd like to have another chance to play against a quality side," said ten Doeschate here on Tuesday.

In the lead-up to Thursday's clash against Namibia, the Men in Blue trained under lights at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

An indisposed Jasprit Bumrah, who missed the USA match, and Washington Sundar, who has recovered from a rib injury, were back in training. However, Abhishek wasn't part of it. "Abhishek has a few tummy issues, but we hope he'll be available".

West Indies hopes for a 2016 encore against England

Head coach Sammy says the Hope-led side is ready to challenge the best; Brook's men, meanwhile, will look to sharpen their execution after surviving a major scare against Nepal



Power-packed: West Indies will have high expectations from Shepherd. EMMANUAL YOGINI

T20 WORLD CUP

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

As the West Indies and England prepare to face off at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday, memories of March 2016 come rushing back.

Gayle storm

Back then, West Indies launched its World T20 campaign with a thumping win over England, powered by Chris Gayle's six-hitting spectacle – a victory that set it on course for a title-winning run that culminated in another triumph over the same opponent in the final.

Today's matches

South Africa vs Afghanistan	Australia vs Ireland	England vs West Indies
Ahmedabad, 11 a.m.	Colombo (RPS), 3 p.m.	Mumbai, 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 3	Played: 2	Played: 38
South Africa 3 | Afghanistan 0	Australia 2 | Ireland 0	England 19 | West Indies 18
		NR 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

A decade on, much has changed beyond the tournament being rechristened the T20 World Cup.

England has since joined West Indies as two-time champions and arrives as strong contenders for a third title, with Harry Brook's side widely tipped to go deep into the competition. West Indies, meanwhile, begin once again as underdogs.

But head coach Daren Sammy – the title-winning captain in 2012 and 2016 – believes the Shai Hope-led side is ready to challenge the best.

"I remember coming into 2016, some of the names that my cricketers were called. Some of the battles we had to fight.

"To this day, 10 years later, we are still fighting it," Sammy said, adding that he would speak more openly about those challenges after the tournament. But we won't let that affect what we bring on the field. We try to control the things that are within our power... Mumbai has been a place that has been kind to us in the World Cups, so we look forward to it."

England, meanwhile, will look to sharpen its execution after surviving a major scare against Nepal on Sunday.

Valuable experience

Veteran Jos Buttler, 24 runs shy of becoming the fourth batter to complete 4,000 T20I runs, felt the narrow escape could prove valuable.

"If you can hold your nerve and manage to still execute skills... that's probably good learning for the group," Buttler said, as England seeks to turn lessons into momentum.

South African batters are familiar with the Afghan spinners and are ready for them, says Miller

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

There are seemingly no more secrets in international cricket. David Miller and Rashid Khan, who are set to face-off in the South Africa-Afghanistan Group D encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Wednesday, may very well attest.

Miller and Rashid played together for Gujarat Titans for three seasons in the IPL here. Rashid is a regular in the SA20, and he and Miller played each other in the 2023 ODI World Cup at this very ground.

Yet, for all the familiarity, cricket retains a glorious uncertainty – the pitch. And this being a day game that starts at 11 a.m., there is great intrigue.

"No one around the world will tell you how the wicket will behave before the game," Rashid said on Tuesday.

"Everyone gives their point of view. Sometimes it's a 250 wicket, and sometimes 150. If you put those things in the mind it affects you mentally.

"Nowadays, I'm hearing a lot of discussion about the wicket. We are not really discussing the skills that we have. And we bring those skills into the game," he added.

In Sunday's five-wicket defeat to New Zealand, Rashid & Co. couldn't tie down the Kiwi batters. But against the Proteas, they may be encouraged by how Canada left-arm spinner Ansh Patel kept the South Africans on a leash during Monday's contest and picked up three wickets.

"I think all our guys are really good at playing spin," insisted Miller. "Afghanistan has got some really good spinners, but a lot of us have played with them and against them for a number of years now.

"With all due respect, Canada, we've never... we didn't know how the players play. So we were assessing that out for the first time. But Afghanistan, we know what to expect."

There are no more secrets, are there? Wednesday will tell.

Big challenge: Rashid & Co. will be eager to bounce back after the loss to New Zealand. VIJAY SONEJI

Sofiya sets new World record on way to gold

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kazakhstan's Sofiya Shulzhenko set a new World record in the 50m rifle 3 positions women's event on her way to the gold at the Asian Rifle/ Pistol Championship here on Tuesday.

India, meanwhile, claimed two more gold medals on day seven of the competition at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here.

Sofiya ended the 35-shot final with a score of 358.2, four points clear of silver-winning Aakriti Dahiya of India.

Aakriti's senior teammate Anjum Moudgil, a World Championship medalist, clinched bronze with 340.4. In the junior women's 3 positions final, Prachi Gaikwad emerged triumphant with 353.3.

Kazakh shooter Tomiris Amanova, 14, won silver with 351.4 while Anushka Thokur bagged another bronze for the host with an effort that ended after the 34th shot at 341.1.

In the women's 50m rifle 3 positions final, Aakriti was in the lead after the first kneeling position, but Sofiya had a strong display in the second prone position to rise up to second. Thereafter, she was the only shooter to log above 50 points in both the five-shot series of the standing position.

India's medal tally currently stands at 39 gold, 15 silver and 12 bronze medals.

Nagal battles his way into the second round

CHENNAI OPEN

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

It was as if Sumit Nagal had gone missing for the best part of the opening set. The India No. 1 quickly fell behind 0-5 as Britain's Felix Gill punched above his weight, hitting crisply from the baseline and coming up with fine volleys when he needed to in their Chennai Open ATP Challenger contest at the SDAT tennis stadium.

The eighth seed Nagal swiftly turned things around and stepped up his return game to race to a 5-0 lead in the second set before Gill could get himself on the board.

After exchanging breaks early in the decider, Nagal, coming into the tournament after two losses in the Davis Cup tie against the Netherlands, ran away a winner.

Sidharth Rawat joined his compatriot in the round-of-16, with an upset 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over fifth seed Rio Noguchi of Japan. Sasikumar Mukund was the other Indian winner on the day as he edged out Nitin Kumar Sinha 7-5, 6-3.

The results (first round):
Federico Agustin Gomez (Arg) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-1, 6-2; Oliver Crawford (GBr) bt Digvijaypratap Singh 7-6(6), 3-6, 7-5; Ilia Simakin (Rus) bt Manas Dhamne 6-3, 6-2; Sidharth Rawat bt Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; Federico Ferreira Silva (Por) bt Karan Singh 6-4, 6-4.

Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) bt Florent Bax (Fra) 5-7, 6-4, 3-2 (retd.); Sumit Nagal bt Felix Gill (GBr) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3; Duje Adjukovic (Srb) 6-4, 6-4; Petr Bar Biryukov (Rus) bt Ishaque Eqbal 6-3, 6-4; Lorenzo Carboni (Ita) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-2 (retd.); Sasikumar Mukund bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 7-5, 6-3; Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Aditya Vishal Balsekar 6-0, 6-0.

Bengal completes formalities in style, enters semifinals

RANJI TROPHY

Y.B. Sarangi
KALYANI

A dominant Bengal outplayed Andhra by an innings and 90 runs to continue its winning momentum and advance to the Ranji Trophy semifinals in style at the Bengal Cricket Academy ground here on Tuesday.

Andhra, resuming its second innings at 64 for three, was bowled out for 244 as the host, boosted by Shahbaz Ahmed's four-wicket haul, completed the formalities inside two sessions on the final day of the quarterfinal contest and set up a last-four clash with Jammu and Kashmir at the same venue. Bengal last played in the semifinals in the 2022-23 season.

Since the result of the match was a foregone conclusion, Andhra batters resisted in their bid to avoid an outright defeat. However, with little to gain and batter K.S. Bharat nursing an injury, it was difficult for the tourists to put up a spirited fight.

Shahbaz, who had taken a wicket overnight, provided the breakthrough in the morning session by removing Andhra skipper Ricky Bhui, who was brilliantly caught at silly point.

The following two overs produced two more wickets with Suraj Jaiswal trapping K.V. Sasikanth lbw and Shahbaz having Saurabh Kumar caught at square-leg.

With Bengal opting to give its pacers a break, the strong-willed Nitish Reddy (90, 144b, 7x4, 2x6), who played some fine shots on either side, batted defiantly to add 57 with K.S. Raju and 85 with T. Vijay (46, 61b, 6x4, 2x6).

Part-time leg-spinner Anustup Majumdar dismissed Raju at the stroke of lunch. The Nitish-Vijay partnership tested Bengal's patience before Nitish's soft dismissal off Shahbaz charged up the home side.

Sumanta Gupta captured Vijay's wicket to trigger celebrations as Bharat chose not to bat.

Captain Abhimanyu Easwaran credited Bengal's team effort. "The team is peaking at the right time. We are winning important moments this year," he said, lauding all the players, including Akash Deep, who performed despite running a fever.

The scores: Andhra – 1st innings: 295.
Bengal – 1st innings: 629.
Andhra – 2nd innings: C.R. Gnaneshwar b Jaiswal 20, Abhishek Reddy b Akash 5, Shaik Rasheed st. Gandhi b Shahbaz 8, Ricky Bhui c (sub) Subham b Shahbaz 30, Nitish Reddy c & b Shahbaz 90, K.V. Sasikanth lbw b Jaiswal 0, Saurabh Kumar c Abhimanyu b Shahbaz 1, K.S. Raju c Chatterjee b Majumdar 25, T. Vijay c (sub) Rahul b Sumanta 46, K. Saiteja (not out) 0, K.S. Bharat (absent hurt) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-9, w-1): 19; Total (in 72.2 overs): 244.
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-43, 3-45, 4-92, 5-93, 6-96, 7-153, 8-238, 9-244.
Bengal bowling: Mukesh 9-2-23-0, Akash 8-2-13-1, Jaiswal 15-3-42-2, Shami 3-1-7-0, Shahbaz 24-3-72-4, Sumanta 5.2-0-35-1, Majumdar 8-1-43-1.
The semifinal line-up: Feb. 15 to 19: Uttarakhand vs. Karnataka (Lucknow); Bengal vs. J & K (Kalyani).

Vyshak back in squad for Ranji semifinal

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Fast bowler V. Vyshak returns to the Karnataka squad which will take on Uttarakhand in the Ranji Trophy semifinal at Lucknow on February 15.

Vyshak, who had missed the quarterfinal due to a hamstring injury, replaces M. Venkatesh.

Devdutt Padikkal, who has made a bright start to his captaincy tenure, will continue to lead. K.L. Rahul, who scored 130 in Karnataka's victory over Mumbai in the last-eight, will spearhead a strong batting line-up.

The squad: Devdutt Padikkal (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, K.L. Rahul, Karun Nair, K.V. Aneesh, R. Smaran, Shreyas Gopal, Kruthik Krishna, V. Vyshak, Vidyadhar Patil, Vidwath Kaverappa, Prasidh Krishna, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, K.L. Shrijith.

Pakistan's U-turn no surprise, but cricket might pay a price in future

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Now that Pakistan have taken the expected U-turn and are playing India on Sunday in the World T20, it might be tempting to declare that all's well that ends well.

But the realisation that yet another country can resort to blackmailing the International Cricket Council may not be such good news for the sport.

Bangladesh, dropped from the tournament, probably got the most from the negotiations, but administrators have long memories and there is no telling who gets their comeuppance from whom.

In 2012, the Woolf Report – commissioned by the ICC and mostly ignored – said that "Cricket is a great game. It deserves to have governance, including management and ethics, worthy of the sport. This is not the position at the present time." Nor is it at this present time.

Governing bodies of international sports have to understand diplomacy and not allow a problem to fester till it teeters on the brink of unsolvability as national pride and personal egos enter the mix.

Money matters

In the end, money decided. Pakistan took the pragmatic view, choosing not to lose the millions they would have had the match not gone ahead.

Politicians also saw it as a way to impress their domestic audience by temporarily standing up to a giant. It was one of those situations where they knew that others knew that we knew that they knew that in the end the match would be played.

"The decision (to play India) has been taken with the aim of protecting the spirit of cricket..." read the Pakistan government statement. To coat inevitability in the colours of 'sporting spirit' might be a political necessity, but it fools no one.

Whether there were back channel efforts or not, officially India sat back and let the events unfold themselves, leaving it to the ICC to sort out the mess in their own tournament.

Both Pakistan and Bangladesh pushed the ICC to see how far it would go. They know that bilateral series are decided by the respective cricket boards, but Pakistan asked the ICC for a series with India and a tri-series with Bangladesh. The ICC cannot interfere, and these were denied.

But Bangladesh made sure they would face no penalty for refusing to play in India, and would be granted a compensatory global tournament (perhaps the Under-19 World Cup) to boot.

In any case, they are scheduled to co-host the 2031 World Cup (50-over) with India.

It will be interesting to see how many items in the wish list actually happen when this kerfuffle is forgotten.

Unwritten agreements

There might well be unwritten and unpublicised agreements among the boards we know nothing about. This is the way of cricket administration.

Now that Pakistan have realised just how important they are to cricket's eco system, and how crucial they are to the television rights based on their playing India a certain number of times in a single cycle, we might see more muscle flexing in future.

Coming at a cost

For the moment the T20 World Cup has been revived. But it might have come at a cost.

The ICC is already bracing for a 30% cut in revenue when media contracts come up for renewal next year. Unpredictability works against stability as economies around the world have discovered.

The top three countries, India, England and Australia do not depend on the ICC alone for their revenue. But it is crucial for other countries.

Corporates who own franchises tend to be more professional even if focused on the bottom line, and not on development. Unpredictability in the mainstream is an invitation to franchise cricket to take over.

That politicians from Pakistan and Bangladesh and hosts Sri Lanka influenced the decision-making while ostensibly the negotiations involved the ICC, Pakistan Cricket Board and Bangladesh Cricket Board does not bode well for the game.

Although the Indian government was not involved directly, the fact remains that Asian cricket is beholden to the politicians.

It was strange to hear Mohsin Naqvi, chairman of the PCB say, "... everyone knows our Field Marshall (Asim Munir)." Sounds a bit like "my father can whup your father..." He should read the Woolf Report.

Now only one question remains. Will the Indian skipper shake hands with his Pakistani counterpart at the toss?

Dhakshineswar Suresh — making rapid strides

The 25-year-old boasts of a proud 4-0 Davis Cup record in just two ties; he owns a style that is very much in vogue in the modern-day game — big serve followed by a crushing forehand

TENNIS

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Toast of the nation: Dhakshineswar has grown in stature following his exploits. K. MURALI KUMAR

Following India's rousing 3-2 victory over the Netherlands in the Davis Cup Qualifiers first round in Bengaluru on Sunday, there was a light-hearted, friendly, kerfuffle about Dhakshineswar Suresh's height.

The ATP website said – and still says – it was 6'5" while the 25-year-old insisted it was 6'6".

For the media personnel caught in between, it was a choice between an authoritative source and a champion's words. What was indisputable, however, was the fact that Dhakshineswar had grown, may be not in the eyes of the ATP data manager but certainly in front of the Indian sporting audience.

He won all three of his rubbers, boasts of a proud 4-0 Davis Cup record in just two ties and is the toast of the nation.

"It's a different feeling when you're playing for your country," he said, after the win. "You're not just playing for yourself. I played some different tennis in these matches, and I'm really proud of that."

There is both familiarity and novelty to Dhakshineswar. He owns a style that is very much in vogue in modern-day tennis – big serve followed by a crushing forehand.

Not for nothing does 2022 Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios – alongside whom Dhakshineswar competed in the World Tennis League exhibition last year – call him "my bro". But it is a style not very common in India. In recent times, Rohan Bopanna had it, Ramkumar Ramanathan to a much-lesser degree, and not many others.

Dhakshineswar was also a largely unknown name in the country other than in the tennis-following circles. The Dindigul-born lad was a promising junior, but his career was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. And his ongoing education at the Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, United States, has meant that he is not a regular on the Tour and is only ranked 470.

Fledgling career

After a wildcard appearance at the 2018 Chennai Challenger, he has featured in just 12 matches at that level, and has a solitary appearance at a Tour event. Only after he graduates this summer is he likely to play a full schedule.

"He has the game to be in the top 100, no doubt, but he has to stay healthy and get stronger physically," Zeeshan Ali, former India Davis Cup coach, told *The Hindu*.

"Bangalore's altitude helped him, but when you play at sea level and on slower courts, you need to generate your own pace. That's the next step."

Knowing Dhakshineswar, he is not the kind to miss out on an opportunity to grow.

Big factor: Boon starred with a hat-trick for Belgium. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Gritty Belgium turns the tables on Argentina

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

Belgium rode on three strikes from Tom Boon and two penalty strokes to come back from a two-goal deficit and win 5-3 against Argentina in the opening game of the FIH Pro League here on Tuesday.

Argentina, which scored all three goals through penalty corners in the first half, pushed Belgium to the backfoot. However, the Belgians regrouped, pushing ahead one short pass at a time.

Tomas Domene struck the first blow for Argentina in the second minute and Nicolas della Torre doubled the lead seven minutes later. Veteran Boon, fresh from his HIL exploits, continued his momentum with a cheeky overhead shot into the net with four seconds to go for the first quarter.

A penalty corner strike in the 24th minute made it 3-1 to Argentina, but Belgium came up with frequent attacks. The flanks opened up and the Belgians, playing with black armbands as a mark of respect for the death of Thibeau Stockbroekx's father, were only denied by an acrobatic goalkeeper Tomas Santiago.

There was only so much he could do against a side that kept finding ways to breach the defence. Boon rounded off the scoring with a penalty stroke two minutes from time.

The result: Belgium 5 (Boon 15, 30 & 58-ps, Hellin 32, Hendrickx 53-ps) bt Argentina 3 (Domene 2-pc & 24-pc, Della Torre 9-pc).

Would love to continue till LA28: Costantini

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Costantini. R. RAVINDRAN

Massimo Costantini, the National head coach of the Indian table tennis team, is quiet yet firm in his methods and has the results to show for his coaching style and technique.

Now in his third stint, 'Max', who will turn 68 next month, hinted that he would love to continue till the 2028 Los Angeles Games though his contract is up for renewal this May.

" I would like to build a better set of coaches and players with a strong mentality and create a better team environment.

"I think my legacy was there in 2018. I want to leave an even better one. That's my dream," he told *The Hindu* at the WTT Star Contender on Tuesday.

Max felt it would be tough for the Indians to do well here. "It's more challenging for the girls. The Japanese are very good and next only to the Chinese."

The coach said it felt great to see Manav Thakkar finally showing his potential at the international level. "I see that after so many discussions and analyses of his game, I think he has now found his game. He has developed his speed and timing, which are crucial."

Costantini said he is also working with the Sports Authority of India to set up a permanent training camp.

The year 2026 is important, with the World Team Championships in London (from April 28 to May 10) followed by the Asian Games in September. Costantini felt it would be ideal if the team for the Worlds was decided after the Nationals to be held in Indore from March 14. "My advice is to wait until March 21. We have time till April 8 for team replacement."

Important results (qualifying second round): Men: Umesh Kumar bt Rajeev Chikanbanjar (Nepal) 6-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-8; Balamurugan Rajasekaran bt Neil Mulye 11-5, 13-11, 11-9.

Women: Naisha Rewaskar bt Palak Ghia 11-3, 11-8, 11-6; Gungun Sahu bt Hardee Patel 12-10, 8-11, 11-9, 12-10; Nithya Mani bt Pritha Vartikar 11-9, 9-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8.

Villarreal moves to the joint third spot

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Villarreal routed Espanyol 4-1 in the LaLiga on Monday, drawing it level on points with third-placed Atletico Madrid.

Goals by Georges Mikautadze, Nicolas Pepe and Alberto Moleiro, bolstered by an own goal by Jose Salinas, brought the Yellow Submarine to 45 points. But Leandro Cabrera's late consolation goal for the visitors stopped Villarreal from leapfrogging Atletico into third place.

Two goals from on-loan Donyell Malen drove Roma to a 2-0 win over Cagliari on Monday, lifting it level with fourth-placed Juventus in Serie A.

The results: Serie A: Atalanta 2 (Krstovic 13, Zappacosta 25) bt Cremonese 1 (Thorsby 90+4); Roma 2 (Malen 25, 65) bt Cagliari 0. **LaLiga:** Villarreal 4 (Mikautadze 35, Salinas 41-og, Pepe 50, Moleiro 55) bt Espanyol 1 (Cabrera 88).

LIVE TELECAST

Table tennis: WTT Star Contender, WTT Global YouTube channel, 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 & 7 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 1 a.m. (Thursday)

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bids is invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1.	Providing water supply scheme to the left out streets/ Areas and newly formed streets- Part 1 in Area III,XI,XII,XIV and XV, CNT/WSS/NCB/MWB/3716/2025-26	Rs.6.60 lakhs	26.02.2026 upto 3.00 p.m	27.02.2026 after 3.30 p.m
2.	EMD by online transfer only through tender Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of Tender document.			
3.	Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website : **www.tntenders.gov.in.** For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from **12.02.2026.**			

DIPR/853/TENDER/2026
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Contracts &Monitoring)

THE ODISHA STATE POLICE HOUSING & WELFARE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
JANAPATH, BHOINAGAR, BHUBANESWAR - 22. Ph: 0674-2541545, 2542921,
E-mail: ophwc.od@od.nic.in, Website: www.ophwc.com
e-procurement notice No.- 27/OPHWC/2025-26
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The **Chief Engineer (OSPH&WC)**, Odisha, Bhubaneswar invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system in **ONLINE MODE** only, for the works as detailed below:

1	Nature of work	Building works
2	No. of Works	16 Nos.
3	Value of Tender	Rs. 2.09 Cr. to Rs. 10.75 Cr.
4	Class of Contractor	'B' Class to 'Spl.' Class
5	Cost of Bid document (To be paid online)	₹ 11,800.00
6	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	Dt. 12/02/2026 to Dt. 27/02/2026 up to 5.00 P.M
7	Last date/time of Receipt of Bids in the Portal	Dt. 27/02/2026 up to 5.00 P.M
8	Date of Opening Bid	Dt. 02/03/2026 at 10.30 A.M
9	Date of Technical Presentation (among qualified bidders only)	Date & Time will be notified after opening of the Technical Bid.
10	*The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can also be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation oftender shall not be published in Newspaper and can only be seen in the said website. *The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids and terminate the tender process without assigning any reason thereof.	

Sd/-Chief Engineer (OSPH & WC)
N.B. - The quoted rate should be all inclusive but excluding G.S.T. as applicable Under works contract.
12001/11/2526 OIPR-12001-12118/1/25-26/0001

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (TIDCO)
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI – 600 008
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

No. TIDCO/FTO/KOVILPATTI/2025-26/1 Date: 11.02.2026

TIDCO, a Government of Tamil Nadu enterprises, intend to select a Concessionaire for establishment of Flying Training Organisation (FTO) at Kovilpatti on 'DBFOT' basis for a period of 31 years. In this context, TIDCO invites interested firms to submit proposals for development of FTO as detailed in the tender document.

Interested firms can download the tender from the website **https://tidco.com and https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost. The last date for submission of Proposals/Bids is at or before 15.00 Hours IST on 26.02.2026, through **https://tntenders.gov.in.** The Technical Proposals/ Bids will be opened at 17.00 Hours IST on 26.02.2026.

MANAGING DIRECTOR
Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road,
Egmore, Chennai – 600 008.
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com , Website: https://tidco.com
DIPR/864/Tender/2026

SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The Ramanathapuram District Central Co-Operative Bank Ltd . is interested to sell its immovable property at Melamadai 1st Bit Village, Madurai East Taluk, Madurai District through M/S MSTC Limited following e-Auction process. For participation in e-Auction process the prospective buyers are required to register with M/S MSTC Ltd (service provider of the bank) on its website **www.mstcecommerce.com**
For further details of the property, terms & conditions, schedule of e-Auction please visit the following website
www.mstcindia.co.in and www.mstcecommerce.com
Contact Persons
1. For Registration & General Enquiry : Shri. Remil Rashid, Manager MSTC Mobile No 9946473645
2. For Inspection Enquiry : Assistant General Manager (Admin) Ramanathapuram District Central Cooperative Bank, Mobile No 8012551626

DIPR/165/DISPLAY/2026 **The Ramanathapuram District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd.**

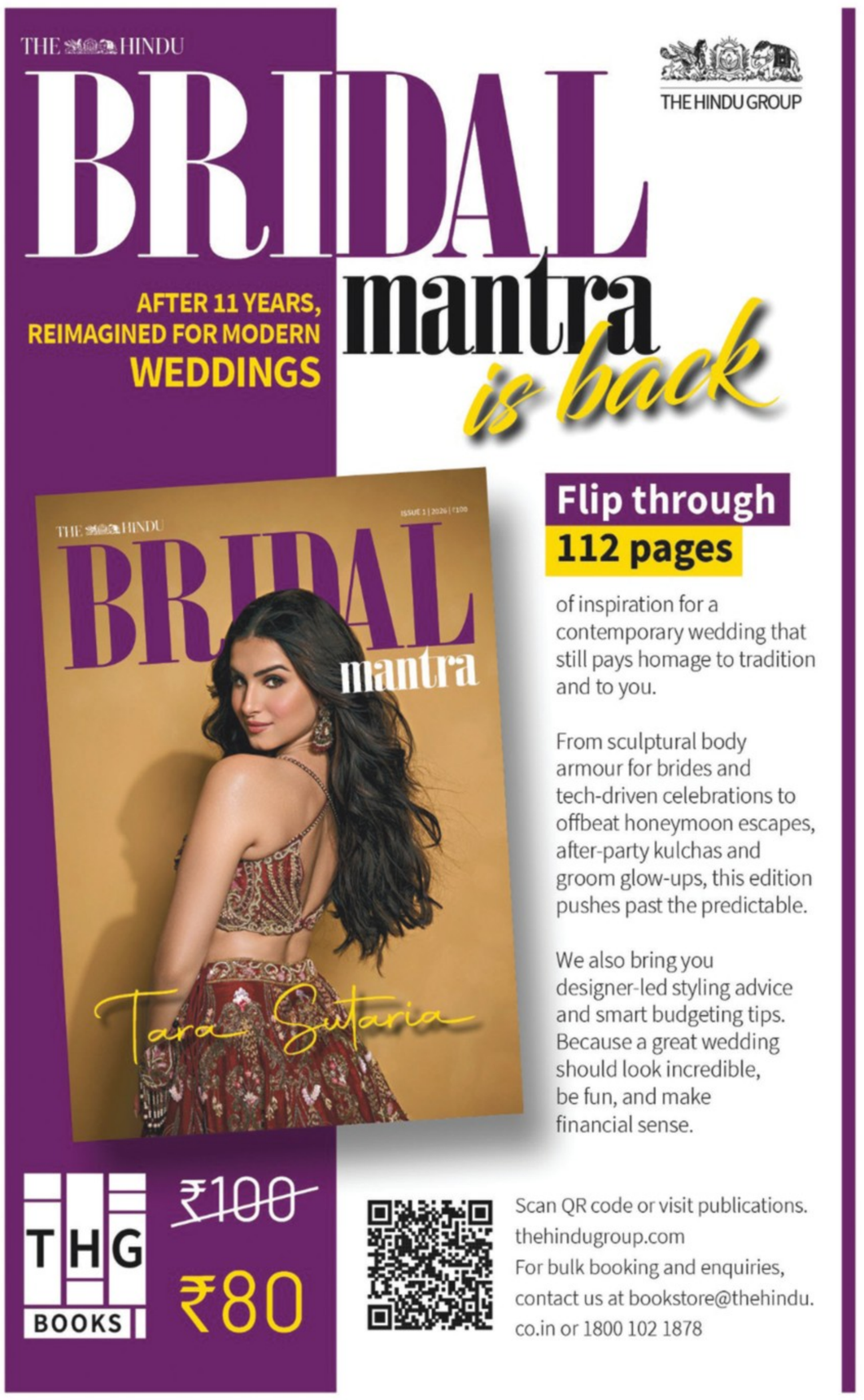
INDIRA GANDHI MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Government of Puducherry Institution)
Vazhudavour Road, Kathirkamam, Puducherry - 605 009.
Ph: 0413-2277545, 0413-2277289 Website: www.igmcri.edu.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF SENIOR RESIDENT ON REGULAR SCALE AND ON TENURE BASIS

Eligible candidates who fulfill the NMC criteria are invited to attend the Walk-in-interview for the post of **Senior Resident** on Regular Scale and on Tenure Basis on **18.02.2026 at 10.00 a.m.** onwards along with filled in application form and copies of the testimonials.

The details regarding eligibility criteria such as age limit, educational qualification, experience, pay and other conditions etc., can be viewed on the official website **www.igmcri.edu.in.** The prescribed application form can be downloaded from the website.

No.183(9)/IGMC&RI/Acad/Estt.II/SR/Recr./2026/ **DIRECTOR i/c**
No.806/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26



VIT
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

Presents

THE HINDU TECH SUMMIT 2026

Co-Presented by sify

THE HINDU GROUP

Continuity Unbroken:
Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World

This summit brings together visionary leaders, educators, and technologists to explore how learning, innovation, and governance converge to build a future that is stronger, smarter, and truly connected. Join us as we celebrate the power of education and the promise of innovation to create a resilient world.

FEBRUARY 12 & 13, 2026, CHENNAI

Chief Guest

Inaugural Address by
Dr G Viswanathan
Founder & Chancellor,
Vellore Institute of Technology

Guest of Honour

Special Address by
Mr Raju Vegesna
Chairman and Managing Director,
Sify Technologies Limited

DAY 01

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Inauguration

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM
From Classroom to Cosmos
Dr Sekar Viswanathan, Vice-President, VIT
In conversation with **Ms Ramya Kannan,**
Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), The Hindu

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Resilience by Design: Embedding Continuity into Organisational DNA using ISO 22301 & 27031
Mr Sivaramakrishnan, CISO, M2P
Mr Santhosh Murthy Neriyanuri, Sr. Director, Operations,
Kellogg Brown and Root Company
Mr Gokulavan Jayaraman, Infosec Leader, Mahindra Group
Mr Saravanakumar R, Senior Director, Tech Risk Management, Sutherland
Moderated by **Mr Suresh Vijayaraghavan,** CTO, The Hindu

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
Powering India's AI Future: Data Centres, Capital, and the Race to Scale
Mr Raju Vegesna, Chairman and Managing Director, SIFY Technologies Ltd.
In conversation with **Mr John Xavier,** Tech Editor - The Hindu

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM LUNCH

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Cyber Resilience in an AI-driven World: Balancing Risk, Recovery, and Privacy
Mr Manjunath Prasad, Head IT, TVS Mobility Pvt Ltd
Mr Balaji T K, AVP Engineering, Epimoney Pvt Ltd - FlexiLoans
Mr Vinod R, Director-Platforms Solution, Sutherland
Dr Ramkumar Dilli, Chief Information Officer & Head of Security, Myridius
Moderated by **Mr Nagaraj,** VP - Data & Analytics, The Hindu

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Data Privacy & Security in Biometric Travel Platforms
Mr Suresh Khadakbhavi, CEO, Digi Yatra Foundation
In conversation with **Mr L V Navaneeth,** CEO, The Hindu Group

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery
Mr Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Center Projects, SIFY Infinit Spaces Ltd.
Mr Sendil Kumar Venkatesan, CTO, Shriram Capital
Mr Amrish Kumar Jain, Chief Information Officer, Tally Solutions
Mr Santhosh TG, Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility
Mr Suraj Ramesh, Senior Principal Product Manager, Oracle India Pvt Ltd.
Moderated by **Mr Suresh Vijayaraghavan,** CTO, The Hindu

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Resilient GCCs: Continuity and Compliance at Global Scale
Mr Kalilur Rahman, Sr GCC Advisor
Mr Santhosh Kumar M, Sr Director - Digital - KBR
Dr Deepak Kota, Director, Global IT Support, Mars Snacking
Mr Harsha Ram G, Business Head, Network Services, Sify Technologies Ltd.
Moderated by **Mr John Xavier,** Tech Editor - The Hindu

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Governance, Risk and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework
Mr Sakthi Balan Muthaiah, Professor, Shiv Nadar University
Mr Gowdhaman Jothilingam, Global CISO and Head of IT,
Latent View Analytics Ltd.
Mr Vennimalai Sundaresan, Vice President - Data Governance,
Standard Chartered
Dr Balakrishna Kanniah, VP - IT, IS and Digital, Alten India pvt ltd
Moderated by **Mr Koushik Ramani,** Managing Partner, NetworkGain

Scan here or visit
newsth.live/THTS2026
to register and secure your invite.
Registration subject to confirmation.

Associate Partners: skylark, KBR, Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY, virtusa
Realty Partner: G SQUARE PLOTS | VILLAS | APTS.
TV Partner: புதிய தலைமுறை
Digital News Partner: THE FEDERAL VOICE OF THE STATES
Knowledge Partner: CIO Association
Industry Partner: MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
Eco System Partner: Startup சிங்கம் SEASON-2
Gift Partner: nexus A GIFTING COMPANY